

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION
INCLUDING DUMBO

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Black leaders rip Ratner's \$400M Barclays arena deal

Atlantic Yards supporter says Bruce is taking 'blood money' of slaves at Nets site; another ally is demanding reparations

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

Two black supporters of Atlantic Yards have joined a growing chorus saying that developer Bruce Ratner betrayed his black allies when he sold the naming rights to his proposed Nets arena to Barclays, a global banking firm that was founded by slave traders and did business with South Africa's apartheid government.

Both Roger Green — a former state Assemblyman — and his successor Hakeem Jeffries came out this week against the Barclays deal.

Jeffries said Ratner should consider "terminating" his \$400-million deal, the largest-ever sports venue naming-rights agreement.

"It would be an understatement to say that this naming agreement was insensitive and offensive," said Jeffries (D-Prospect Heights).

"Barclays Bank has gained enormous profits essentially from blood money obtained from the transatlantic slave trade, which is one of the worst crimes in the history of the world. Brooklynites and New Yorkers of every race and religion should be concerned about their presence in our borough."

Jeffries demanded a meeting with the developer to discuss the issue. He hasn't gotten a call back yet.



Roger Green



Hakeem Jeffries

"All options should be on the table, including payment for past wrongs and termination of the agreement," Jeffries said.

Green, a strong supporter of Atlantic Yards, moved last week to distance himself from the naming-rights deal. He called on Barclays to pay reparations to American blacks for its role in slavery.

"Barclays must step up and respond to our community the way they responded to Nelson Mandela" over the issue of apartheid in South Africa, he said.

As part of the \$400-million naming-rights deal, Barclays has said it will pay \$2.5 million to repair public basketball courts through the borough, but Green called that amount, "not enough."

Barclays gave \$5 million to a Mandela foundation in 2004. The company also funded local development projects in South Africa, including public sports facilities.

A spokesman for Barclays declined to comment on Green's call for reparations. The spokesman also disputed the company's well-documented connection to the slave trade, freezing of some Jewish accounts in France during the Holocaust, and business deals with South Africa's apartheid government.

At a press conference where the Barclays deal was announced last week, Bloomberg mocked a reporter's question about the bank's history. But Green,

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who was active in the anti-apartheid movement two decades ago, said reports on Barclays' ties to the slave trade and apartheid amounted to "constructive criticism" of Ratner's new business partner.

As a result, Green said, he will "ask these companies to respond to our communities."

The sharp criticism of the Ratner deal is a first for Jeffries and Green — and put them in a coalition with leaders who have taken strong stances against the project.

The attack on Ratner's naming-rights deal by supporters of the Atlantic Yards project follows criticism by Councilwoman Letitia James, a project opponent, last week.

See **BLOOD** on page 15



A West Indian-American Carnival dancer in happier times.

Sad day for the Carnival

The Brooklyn Paper

Carlos Lezama, who turned Labor Day from a languid holiday into a full-fledged carnival of steel drums, Caribbean delicacies, and dancers in skimpy costumes, died on Monday. He was 83.

Lezama spearheaded the West Indian-American Day Carnival from 1967 to 2001, transforming it from a little neighborhood party to an citywide event attracting more than 3 million people along Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights.

"He was a truly great Brooklynite," said the borough's cheerleader-in-chief, Borough President Markowitz.

Herman Hall, the publisher of Everybody's Magazine, a Caribbean-American publication, said the Trinidadian-American's influence went beyond the parade, bringing "recognition to the Caribbean-American community and [playing] a major role in enhancing the quality of life in New York City." — **Dana Rubinstein**



Runner quits, ends his Brooklyn dream

By Christie Rizk
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's version of Forrest Gump has hit the halfway mark on his quest to run every inch of Brooklyn's roadways — but now he's giving it a rest.

Gary Jarvis's quest to traverse the length, width and depth of Brooklyn has been well-documented — but the enormity of the task has, frankly, taken its toll.

"I didn't realize how big and dense and concentrated Brooklyn is," said the Iowa native, who had apparently failed to look at a map before predicting that he could

run the entire borough.

"Brooklyn is enormous," Jarvis had never spent time in Brooklyn until he moved here to be with his girlfriend. Like any newcomer, he figured the best way to get to know his new home would be to get out.

"Talk about not thinking things through," said Jarvis, whose presence has been noticed everywhere from Greenpoint to Bensonhurst.

"He's a bona-fide Brooklyn character," said the expert in that department, Borough President Markowitz, who added that he hopes "to join him for a run soon."

On Friday, Jan. 19, Jarvis hit the halfway mark and started a much-needed break.

He claims he'll be back on the roads in six weeks — but it's no longer clear if he'll make it.

"I feel so awful and so tired," said Jarvis, who doesn't warm up or stretch.

He'll turn 41 in May. But his advancing age isn't his excuse. "I guess I'm just a little lazy," he said.



Former Iowan Gary Jarvis, who is running the length of every street in Brooklyn, may be abandoning his Quixotic quest.



Gotham gritty: Joshua Peters' comic-inspired work, including Batman (above), is on display at Corridor Gallery in Clinton Hill.

X-ray visions

See superheroes in a new light

By Rebecca Migdal
for The Brooklyn Paper

Bruce Wayne is nowhere to be found.

In Joshua Peters' painterly and colorful renditions of superheroes — at the Corridor Gallery in Clinton Hill through Feb. 10 — Batman is flashing a fierce grin and sports "bling"-like golden gadgetry galore on his belt. Even the caped crusader's winged logo has morphed from the standard decal to a massive bat-shaped gold necklace.

If you've ever leafed through a comic book and wondered why so few people of color were represented within its pages, now's the time to don your cape and fly to see "Up, Up and Away," an exhibit by three comic book-inspired artists that explores the zone between comics and fine art, with one eye on the color line.

Peters, Kyle Baker and Jon Alex Gonzales are each, in their own medium, looking past the

prescribed notion of heroics and acknowledging those who are heroes on their own terms.

In Peters' rainbow version of comic book heroes, the Human Torch wears Adidas, while Captain America is portrayed as a powerful-looking Asian man before a barbed-wire-topped wall, as if rescuing a child imprisoned during World War II. Spider Woman is made over as a haggard and overworked single mother whose face, says Peters, has "a strength that has nothing to do with bounding from building to building."

"I wanted to take the archetype and put it on its ear," Peters admits. "Black and Asian heroes are usually tokenized."

Peters's close involvement with the weightlifting world was clearly a resource when seeking models for what he calls his "Heroes" series, which was spawned by a vision of Wonder Woman fashioned in the likeness of Peters's bodybuilder girlfriend, Jodi Comish.

See **UP, UP** on page 13

Paper boy delivered

The Brooklyn Paper

The Brooklyn Paper is proud to announce its latest edition: Vince Michael DiMiceli was born at 2:29 a.m. on Jan. 19 at Staten Island University Hospital.

Weighing in at nine pounds even, the strapping young lad was 22 inches long and sported a thick crop of brown hair.

The newest DiMiceli is the first child for GO Brooklyn and Brooklyn Bride Editor Lisa J. Curtis and Senior Editor and Production

Manager Vince "Vinny" DiMiceli — two of the Brooklyn Paper's longest-tenured (and award-winning) employees.

The happy family is doing well — if not sleeping through the night — in their outer-Brooklyn home across the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

"In an occupation where meeting deadlines is essential, we're proud to say our son came to us just two-hours and 29 minutes past his due date," the DiMicelis said.

"For a Brooklyn Paper employee, that's not half bad."



Two top prizes for The Paper

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's real newspaper was recognized last week for editorial excellence, winning two first-place awards in the Suburban Newspaper Association's annual competition.

The Brooklyn Paper won First Place for Best Editorial Writing, for editorials titled "No votes for a thief" (about disgraced Assemblyman Roger Green) and "It's official: It's no park" (about the commercial

and housing development commonly referred to as Brooklyn Bridge Park).

And GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa J. Curtis won First Place for Best Arts & Entertainment Criticism/Commentary for "Poetic Legacy," an article about legendary artist Amiriya Lynn Robinson on the eve of last year's retrospective at the Brooklyn Museum.

To reach all three winning stories, go to www.brooklynpaper.com.

The awards will be presented at the SNA's publishers and editors symposium, in Tampa, Florida, in March.

The Suburban Newspaper Association represents more than 2,000 daily and weekly newspapers that are published in both urban and suburban markets. The contest, which attracted 3,619 entries in 37 categories, was judged by the American Press Institute.

We think they did a great job.

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January 27, 2007

HERE TO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY
January 27



BYO cart

The fourth annual Idiot-ar picks up where the famed Alaskan Idiot-ar race ends, with racers in tricked-out shopping carts gunning for awards like "Best Sabotage." The route is top-secret, but last year's went from Fort Greene Park over the Manhattan Bridge, so anything's game. Time and place TBA. \$5. For information visit www.cartsofbrooklyn.com.

SUNDAY
January 28

Toddler tunes

Singer David Weinstein and his band, Music for Aardvarks and Other Mammals, are hitting the Hook to play their kid-friendly songs, which tend to be hits with parents too, and to celebrate the release of their new record, "Taxi."

3:30 pm at the Hook (18 Commerce St. at Columbia Street in Red Hook). \$30 per family, \$15 for an individual, kids under 2 get in free. For information call (718) 797-3007.

MONDAY
January 29



Monkeying around

Singer Katie Eastburn, of the band Young People, continues her Monday night residency weekly show from now until the end of February — playing original songs, covers and requests, at Williamsburg restaurant-cum-performing arts space Monkeytown.

9 pm at Monkeytown (58 N. Third St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg). Free. \$10 minimum food or drink. For information call (718) 384-1369.

THURSDAY
February 1

Scenic Brooklyn

Underbridge Pictures takes part in the DUMBO First Thursday series with an opening reception for painter Ella Yang. The exhibit, "New York Shines," features scenes from the banks of the Gowanus Canal to an early morning on Smith Street.

6 pm at Underbridge Pictures (111 Front St., Gallery 202 at Washington Street in DUMBO). Free. For information call (718) 596-0290.

FRIDAY
February 2



Bay Ridge hustle

The P.T.A. of William McKinley Intermediate School is holding a disco-themed fundraiser featuring diva Carol Douglas — she of "Midnight Love Affair" fame — in addition to a buffet dinner and dancing until midnight.

8 pm at The Knights Of Columbus Hall (1012 Bay Ridge Ave., at Tenth Avenue in Bay Ridge). \$40. For information call (718) 492-5220.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, JAN 27

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

WALKING TOUR: Mauricio Lorence hosts a tour of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25. 2 pm to 5 pm. Marriott Hotel. 533 Avenue St. (718) 789-0430.

ICE SKATING: The Wellman Rink is open. \$5, \$3 seniors and children. \$5.50 skate rental. 10 am to 1 pm; 2 pm to 6 pm; 7 pm to 10 pm. Prospect Park, across through the parkside Ocean Avenue entrance or the Lincoln Road/Ocean Avenue entrance. (718) 287-5252.

PERFORMANCE

BARGEMUSIC: Classical music concert featuring a program of works by Mozart, Platti and Grieg. Peter Koloky and the Amernet String Quartet perform. \$35, \$30 seniors, \$20 students. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-0083.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents "Dedication, or the Stuff of Dreams," by Terrence McNally. \$18, \$14 children and seniors. 8 pm. 199 4th St. (718) 522-3101.

LOCAL PRODUCE: Spoke the Hula Dance hosts its sixth annual "Winter Follies" showcase. All performers, dancers, musicians, etc. are invited to perform five minutes of their best stuff. 295 Douglas St. www.spokethehula.org. Call for ticket and time info. (718) 458-3234.

FACULTY SHOWCASE: Brooklyn-Queens Conservatory of Music presents Jinh Park and Theresa Ross. \$10, \$5 seniors and students. 8 pm. 58 Seventh Ave. (718) 622-3300.

PLAY NOIR: Inverse Theatre presents "The Death of Griffin Hunter." \$18. 8 pm. Brick Theater, 575 Metropolitan Ave. (646) 552-1754.

CONCERT: Grace Choral Society presents "Light Music for Winter." Featuring works by Lauridsen, Monteverdi, Stravinsky and Haydn. \$15. 6 pm. Grace Church, 254 Hicks St. (718) 707-1411.

BROOKLYN BURGLESQUE: Producers West-bass, Fredbottom, Sweet and Nasty and Kissing Cousins present a bombardment of local performers to test and tempt. \$15. 9 pm. North 66, 66 N. Sixth St. (718) 463-7222.

CHILDREN

BARNES AND NOBLE: Saturday morning story time. 11 am. 106 Court St. (718) 246-7795. Free.

YOUTHWORKS: A performance program for young people, ages 7 to 18. 7 pm. Brooklyn Arts Exchange. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 632-0018. Free.

SPECIAL KIDS: Camp far for kids with special needs. 11 am to 5 pm. Church of St. Paul the Apostle, 405 W. 9th St., Manhattan. (718) 677-4602. www.resources-cny.org. Free.

OTHER

BROOKLYN PEACE ACTIVISTS: National anti-war march on Washington. D.C. Brooklyn Parents for Peace participate to push the new congress to end the Iraq war. \$35. Buses leave Grand Army Plaza at 5:45 am and return the same day. (718) 624-5921.

HAKU WORKSHOP: with Stanford M. Forester, past president of the Haku Society of America. \$60. 10 am to 4 pm. Zen Center of New York City, 500 State St. between Meigs and Third avenues. (718) 875-9229.

AUDITION: The Strivelli Players hold auditions for their April production of "Grease." 1 pm. St. Bernard's School Auditorium, 1313 82nd St. Call for appointment. (718) 907-3422.

ADVERTISING SALES: Roberta Brand (ext. 117), Lynn Mitchell (ext. 110), Eric Ross (ext. 113), Adam El-Sheermy (ext. 109).

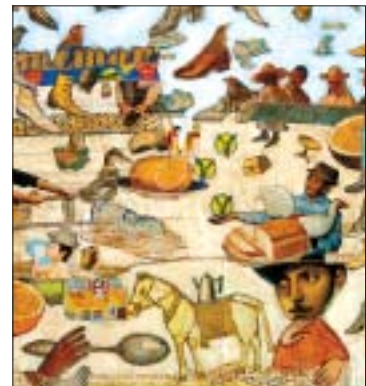
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Flight or 'Flight': Erica Harris exhibits new work in "Flight Patterns," opening Jan. 27 at Object Image Gallery. A detail of "El Salvador" is shown above.

CRAFT WORKSHOP: Brooklyn Artists Gym offers a crafts class on basic beading. \$40. 2 pm to 5 pm. 168 Seventh St. (718) 858-9069.

MEET THE ARTIST: Object Image Gallery presents Erica Harris. Her exhibit "Flight Patterns," is on view. 4 pm to 7 pm. 71st Ave. (718) 623-2434. Free.

HEALTH TALK: Holistic Day Spa presents "How to Keep Your Thyroid Healthy and Happy." \$7 includes light refreshments. 6 pm to 8 pm. 558 Halsey St. (718) 373-0831.

FILM FEST: Kane Street Synagogue hosts

CIVIC CALENDAR

MONDAY, JAN. 29
Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation. Public hearing. On the agenda: a recent modification of Brooklyn Bridge Park's General Project Plan and the lease terms for 360 Furman St. Politechnic University's Diner Auditorium 5 MetroTech Center, between Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue Extension. 6 pm. Call (212) 803-3822 for information.

TUESDAY, JAN. 30
78th Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting. 78th Precinct station-house (66 Sixth Ave. at Bergen Street). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 636-6410 for information.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail newsroom@brooklynpaper.com or fax (718) 834-9278.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31
Red Hook Civic Association. Regular meeting. Red Hook Community Justice Center (169 Valatie Pl., bet. Van Brunt and Richards streets). 7 pm. Call (718) 624-5987 for information.

BOON HILL ASSOCIATION: On the agenda: A screening of Isabel Hill's Atlantic Yards documentary, "Brooklyn Matters." Russian Church (401 Atlantic Ave., at Bond Street). 7 pm. Space is limited, so call (718) 858-3822 X100 to reserve a seat (free).

THURSDAY, FEB. 1
Pratt Institute. On the agenda: A screening of Isabel Hill's Atlantic Yards documentary, "Brooklyn Matters." Higgins Hall Auditorium (61 St. James Pl., at Lafayette Avenue). 6 pm.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail newsroom@brooklynpaper.com or fax (718) 834-9278.

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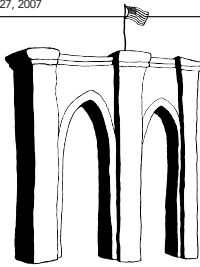
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THE STOOP

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN DUMBO

At bridge — Lights! Camera! Inaction!

Man, what a disappointment. Star-gazers turned out in droves on Tuesday night, hoping to catch a glimpse of Will Smith destroying evil vampires, but all they (OK, I mean I) got was bright lights in their eyes and noisy helicopters in their ears.

"I thought there were going to be some explosions," said one man who had staked out a spot on the Brooklyn Heights Promenade after hearing about the widely publicized filming of Smith's new flick, "I am Legend."

Nighttime shooting in the East River and near the Brooklyn Bridge will continue for the rest of the month — but don't expect much.

Except for a bank of lights on the Fulton Ferry Landing — and that helicopter noise — all the excitement, such as it is, will be on the Manhattan side of the bridge.

If anything, we'll get the traffic. Before Tuesday's shoot, cops said that no roadways will be affected by the filming, but other city officials said that motorists should anticipate — and not contribute to — rubbernecking delays.

In the end, though, "traffic was fine," said Robert Peris, district manager of Community Board 2. "I crossed the bridge around 10 p.m., and I couldn't see anything that was happening on the river."



People came to the Fulton Ferry pier to catch a glimpse of actor Will Smith, who was filming his new action picture, "I am Legend." But the former Fresh Prince was nowhere to be found — and, in fact, all the "action" took place in Manhattan.

And we were so optimistic, after the NYPD put out one of its rare, and cryptic, press releases on Monday afternoon that said, "The public should not be alarmed by activity in the vicinity of the Brooklyn Bridge. A movie being made in the vicinity of the Brooklyn Bridge will employ flood lighting, Army and Coast Guard helicopters, mock police and military vehicles, and over 1,000 extras for an evacuation scene."

Don't be alarmed? That's when I knew we should be alarmed! Alas, there wasn't much to see. The lighting equipment was impressive (have I mentioned the noise from those Blackhawk helicopters?), but the former Fresh Prince of Bel-Air was confined to a barge in the middle of the river.

Other action — a mock evacuation of a post-apocalyptic Manhattan — was taking place on the Manhattan side of the waterway, near Dover Street. This two-minute scene in the movie, a barely fictionalized account of a man who must save the world from marauding creatures of the night, will cost approximately \$30 million.

Judging from the dailies, it was hardly worth it.

THE KITCHEN SINK
Our very own Rep. Ed Towns (D-Brooklyn Heights) has snagged the chairmanship of the House Government Management, Organization, and Procurement sub-committee. Sure, it may sound incredibly boring, but now Towns can hold hearings on Bush administration contracts with Halliburton and Bechtel. Give 'em hell, Ed! ... The posh office ghetto **Bruce Ratner** built could lose a big-time tenant, says Assemblywoman **Joan Millman** (D-Carroll Gardens). The worried state official is pushing **KeySpan** to keep its headquarters in Brooklyn, despite its merger with the British giant, National Grid. The Brooklyn-born company has promised to stay, but Millman would prefer something, how you say?, in writing! ... DUMBO real estate is still booming. Three connected vacant buildings on Old Fulton Street (between Water and Front streets) are for sale by **Massey Knakal** for \$7.5 million. Shall we start the bidding at \$10 million? ... A memorial for Brooklyn Heights art legend **Carol Hamann Howard** — who was best known for her colorful paintings of the Brooklyn Bridge — will take place on Feb. 4 at the **Grace Episcopal Church** in Brooklyn Heights. She lived in the Heights from 1959 until 2005. ... State Sen. **Marty Connor** has thrown his comb-over into the ring for State Comptroller. Won't **Ken Diamondstone** — who spent \$100,000 of his own money in a failed effort to beat Connor last year — be tickled if Connor gets it?

Talk to us. Write: Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com.

HEIGHTS LOWDOWN



Christie Rizk



Our rendering of what an Anthony Caro sculpture would have looked like on the Brooklyn Heights Promenade.

Heights monument to apathy

The Brooklyn Paper

A six-month effort to place a piece of modern art on the Promenade to memorialize the 9-11 attack has died. Cause of death: complete apathy.

Heights resident Philip Ashby had campaigned to place a sculpture on the faded waterfront esplanade as a memorial to New York's worst day. But he dropped

the idea this month when he realized that he was the only one who wanted it. "Nobody ever said no to me," said Ashby, who lives on Pierrepont Street. "But nobody was ever really on board either."

Ashby had asked English sculptor Sir Anthony Caro to design a piece that would not only be a fitting memorial, but "an icon for Brooklyn."

Caro "was very excited" and even sent some mock-ups, said Ashby, who eventually had to give Caro the bad news: "I have failed in my quest."

The dream died, not with a bang of fiery protests but with a whimper — from Ashby. "Without some enthusiasm other than my own," he said, "nothing will ever get done." — **Christie Rizk**

Wrecking balls: Neighbors say developer is demolishing a historic building in DUMBO

By Christie Rizk

The Brooklyn Paper

They said it would happen and, indeed, it happened: Neighborhood activists in DUMBO say a developer has begun demolishing a historic building in hopes of finishing the job before the entire area gets landmark status.

Hearings to determine the future of the so-called "DUMBO Historic District" are set for next month, but HK Management has apparently started work on dismantling the 140-year-old building at 205 Water St.

"It's breaking our heart," said Milton Herder, of the DUMBO Neighborhood Association, which is spearheading the move to landmark the neighborhood so such demolition can't happen.



Debris is being removed from 205 Water St.

"It seems quite obvious that [developer Harry Kotowitz] is pre-empting the [landmarking]. We knew it was going to happen and it's happening."

The DNA began seeking landmark status seven years ago. Two years ago, Landmarks Preservation Commission Chairman Robert Tierney declared DUMBO "protection-worthy."

Kotowitz had promised to hold off on demolition work until the LPC hearings next month, but instead, got a demolition permit. Workers were recently seen dumping plastic bags of rubble into containers on the street, Herder said.

A spokesman for NY Installation, which is doing the work, said his crew was only cleaning up inside the building — not demolishing it.

Kotowitz did not return calls.

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Kids cook!



THE STOOP

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL BOERUM HILL RED HOOK

Hey, Red Hook: Wanna dance?

I GREW UP in the suburbs, where there was little dancing beyond whatever you did in front of the bathroom mirror.

There, in the carefully mowed wilds of Maryland, we were raised to believe that cities literally pumped and thumped with this unseen recreational pastime.

Then my best friend got a car, and we found abandoned warehouses all over Baltimore. In short, we danced.

Fast forward to two weeks ago: It is midnight and I am bicycling west on desolate Union Street. Suddenly, a bass-heavy club mix spills out from a people-packed garage. I hear drum beats, a pop chorus and heels slapping concrete floors and wonder: Why isn't there more rumble in Red Hook?

New York City is in the midst of a slow, well-documented cha-cha away from its old partyland identity. The new sex columnist at the Village Voice is a married mother who reports that she hasn't done the nasty in months. People bring their toddlers to bars. And the number of people boogying in public is dropping faster than a breakdancer's rear end.

In 1960 there were 12,000 cabaret licenses in the five boroughs. In 2006, there are fewer than 200. Party pundits blame Giuliani-era crackdowns, the creeping condo-ization of the city's warehouse districts and the noise-sensitive, 311-empowered residents those condos bring.

Also, the party I passed was a one-time thing, a birthday bash thrown by the building's owner, Arturo Galeano, before he reopens as "Piccolo Cafe."

"This has never been a place for ballrooms," Galeano sighed, recalling the pizzerias and body shops he had once occupied his many storefronts in Red Hook and Carroll Gardens.

"Billiards, yes, but ballroom never."

Still, there are signs of nocturnal potential. Practically speaking, there are plenty of buildings in the neighborhood that could suffice, and enough empty space around them to buffer a thumping downtown. Plus, the zoning is right: the city will only grant cabaret licenses to venues in major commercial centers, industrial or manufacturing districts like the Red Hook waterfront.

There's some activity, of course: The Hook, on Commerce Street, already features discordant anti-pop performers. Steve Buscemi's kid rocks out with other 16-year-olds at the Liberty Heights Tap room. The bearded set fiddles down at Sunny's. And the weekly karaoke nights at the Hope and Anchor on Van Brunt Street leave the diner's windows steamy.

But still, there is nowhere to dance.

Don't tell me to go to the Meatpacking District, or even to Williamsburg. There is space in Red Hook. Let's have one last — or make that first — dance.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Buddy Scott — who practically invented Carroll Gardens (and still buries many of its residents) — isn't worried about the pollution moving underneath the neighborhood. "The gas from the old Keypon plant [on the Gowanus Canal] hasn't gotten up here," the funeral home director and neighborhood legend told the Stoop. ... Can't hold it in any longer? Tell Councilman Bill DeBlasio, who wants to know where you think the city should install new public toilets. Call his district office at (718) 854-9791 and tell him where to go. ... There's supposedly a new liquor shop moving into the former video store on Union Street between Hicks and Columbia streets — but the big news is the **cute black cat** that's been roaming the empty store. Turns out, it belongs to a couple upstairs, but the wife is allergic. They're trying to find the feline a new home. What, a liquor store isn't good enough? ... No wonder they call it Carroll Gardens: A group of green-minded residents are prepping up scruffy **Thomas Greene Park** at Degraw and Nevins streets. Wanna help? Call the **Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association** at (718) 237-1862. ... How many Starbucks are too many? Court Street may soon find out. Sources tell The Stoop — which last week reported on the chain's foamy incursion onto Smith Street — that the espresso kingdom is eyeing a third location in the BoCoCa triangle: **Sal's Pizzeria** at Court and Degraw streets. Sal's son hung up on The Stoop when we inquired about the coffee giant's interest in buying the old-timer's slice shop. Pumpkin spice latte anyone?

Talk to us. Write: Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com.

BROOKLYN SOUTH



Ariella Cohen



Sweetest union on Court Street

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

It's a "Moonstruck" marriage!

The much-loved bakery that served as the backdrop in Cher's 1987 hit romance is coming back to Carroll Gardens — and like the film's lovesick star, Cammareri Bakery has found its perfect match.

Ten years after closing its legendary shop at Henry and Sackett streets, Cammareri's is pairing with Monteleone, a Court Street pastry shop, to start what carbohydrate hounds

are already imagining will be the dreamiest marriage around: the Monteleone & Cammareri bakery (see photo above).

"They are a pastry shop that has been there forever, too," co-owner Nick Cammareri said. "It was a good opportunity to merge bread with pastry and bring old-world baking back to Brooklyn."

Cammareri grew up above the old bakery opened by his grandfather in 1921. In 1986, the family closed shop to focus on a location in New Jersey and another in Bensenville. Their old haunt is occupied by Nadie's,

a decidedly more new-world establishment.

With that new laptop and latte crowd in mind, the new double-team bakery will sell a few carb-concoctions that neither establishment sold in the past.

"We still got a lot of the old people who like their sweets full-strength," said Lenny Cristino, owner of Monteleone. "But we know the neighborhood is changing, so we did some things new."

Cristino said that 80 percent of the pastries will be full-strength and 20 percent will be a "little lighter."

FIRE SALE: Engine company on the block

The Brooklyn Paper

The little firehouse that Steve Buscemi tried to save is headed to the auction block — over Community Board 6's dead body.

At a first public hearing on the city's plan to sell the shuttered Engine 204 on Degraw Street, the local planning board called for a 180-turn — not only demanding that the city keep the building, but also reopen it as a fire station.

The board argued that new growth planned for the area — including the 6,000-unit Atlantic Yards mega-project a mile away — requires a new Engine 204.

"With more people moving to the area, we need more, not less, firefighters," said board member Celia Casace at the crowded hearing.

Echoing CB6's unanimous resolution were the local elected officials, including Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) and Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Cobble Hill), who were arrested with "Rever-

voir Dogs" star Buscemi when the 299 Degraw St. firehouse closed in 2004.

"We reopened Fourth Avenue for growth, we're rebuilding Atlantic Yards, there will be thousands of new people living along the Gowanus," said De-

Blasio. "Engine 204 is relevant to the safety of all these new neighborhoods."

At a second hearing this Wednesday at Borough Hall, DeBlasio and others called on Borough President Markowitz to support their push to reopen

the station.

It's not likely. The station was closed along with seven others in a cost-cutting move. None of the engine houses have reopened.

At this point, "the best use of the property is to restore it to the tax rolls for beneficial use by others," said Mark Daly, a spokesman for the Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

The narrow brick building could be sold for commercial or residential use following the completion of the city's seven-month land-use public review process, which is required before city land can be sold.

It certainly wouldn't be the first time that a former firehouse became luxury housing. In 2004, the city sold a Prospect Heights engine company for \$775,000. It's now called, without irony, "The Firehouse."

— Ariella Cohen



Councilman Bill DeBlasio (tall guy in center) was joined by Assemblywoman Joan Millman (far right) and Steve Buscemi (next to Millman) in protesting the closure of Engine 204 in 2004.

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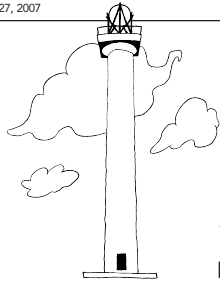
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THE Stoop

FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

Doing the Fort Greene shuffle

THERE are bad design concepts (like the manual car opener) and there are what-the-hell-were-they-thinking design concepts — like the intersection of Lafayette Avenue, Fort Greene Place and Fulton Street.

Get off the G train at Fulton Street, and you'll encounter a rolling whirlpool of cars and cyclists and pedestrians, a barely controlled chaos of three merging streets, bisected by two vest-pocket parks. The intersection has nine corners.

Add South Elliot Place to the mix and you end up with 17.

And let's not even talk about the crosswalks leading nowhere, signals set at odd angles, and curb cuts sloping into traffic.

"This intersection is a comedy of errors," said Fredrik Anderson, the Fort Greene Association vice chair who has been spearheading the fight to improve the neighborhood's haphazard intersections.

Last week, Anderson and I made plans to meet at one of the corners of Fort Greene Plaza and Lafayette Avenue. But reaching his corner (in front of the medical center) from my corner (in front of Rocky's Deli) was no easy task.

Equipped with my unerring sense of direction, I stepped off the curb and veered south toward one of the parks in the middle, walking between two crosswalks seemingly designed to confuse, rather than guide, me. Arriving safely at the park, I crossed its tip and descended the curb cut. But, alas! the curb cut, while it did lead me in the desired direction, also pushed me straight into two-way traffic. Graceful as a lily-pod-hopping frog, I maneuvered past hurtling bumpers, jumped a half-frozen puddle, and arrived at my destination — where Anderson was leaning nonchalantly on a fire hydrant. He wore Birkenstocks over socks.

"This summer, we stood at this corner and got 500 people to sign petitions asking DOT to make improvements," said Anderson. What did they get for their efforts? A sign reminding pedestrians to use the crosswalk. Which crosswalk?

"It wasn't really what we were going for," said Anderson. Rather than a redundant sign, Anderson wants DOT to re-narrate the intersection's crosswalks and traffic signals — not that he criticizes the agency, which he says works closely with the community. A DOT spokesman would only say that agency staffers "are reviewing the concerns."

"This intersection doesn't make any sense," said a woman named Lisa, who was heading south on Fort Greene Place. "Right when you want to cross, a car comes down on you."

Make that cars. On my way back to the G train, a Pepsi truck blocking my view of oncoming traffic. Not much liking my bull's-eye stance in the middle of two-way traffic, I raced across the remainder of the street.

Then I entered the subway, safe at last.

THE KITCHEN SINK

The servers at **Tillie's** do more than just feed your coffee addiction. Many are (surprise!) aspiring artists. To celebrate its 10th anniversary, Tillie's is hosting an apply dubbed exhibition, "We Do More than Serve Coffee," opening during its Feb. 24 anniversary party, which begins at 8 p.m. ... For youngsters looking to make it big in Hollywood, this is a must-see. The **Brooklyn Academy of Music** will host a panel for students of any age seeking careers in entertainment production. The celebrity-studded, Feb. 1 event — at BAM's Lafayette Avenue and Ashland Place — will include "Law & Order: SVU" star Tamara Tunie and others (including a guy who was an assistant director of "The Honeymooners" and the woman who cast "Inside Man" and "25th Hour." Interested? Email nyvfp@film.ny.gov. ... Help in the way for former convicts, thanks to Fort Greene pals **Letitia James**, **Velma Montez** and **Hakima Jeffries**. The trio teamed up last week to push an "Ex-Offender Employer Tax Credit" bill that would increase incentives for creating new jobs for paroled prisoners. ... Our very own Rep. **Ed Towns** (D-Fort Greene) has accepted the chairmanship of the House Government Management, Organization, and

GREENE ACRES



Dana Rubinstein



Jah Juice (right) hangs with a pal at his stand on Vanderbilt Avenue.

DREADLOCKS AND A DREAM

By Lilo H. Stainton

The Brooklyn Paper

Call him the juicemaker who came in from the cold.

For a decade now, Clinton Hill legend Jah Juice has been selling sugarcane and coconuts out of a rundown stand near the corner of Vanderbilt and Dekalb avenues.

But now, the 35-year-old Rastafarian is transforming his dusty, island-style store from a diamond-in-the-rough into a more polished gem.

In February, Jah Juice (that's the only name he uses, by the way) will reopen the Culture Healing Arts Health Food store as a

juice bar and tea shop, with tables for sit-down service.

He'll still offer coconuts and sugarcane, but the crumbling interior will be covered over with fresh paint and new floors, and a gleaming, glass-front cooler will be stocked with fresh fruits and veggies.

Will success spoil Jah Juice? It depends. Will there be any success?

After all, the conversion won't be the Guyana native's first foray into the juice biz. A similar business, on Willoughby Street, near Adelphi Street, was just kicking off last year when a broken sewer line forced him to close, he said.

The Vanderbilt shop also offers a prime

location for a juice bar. It's just off busy Dekalb Avenue and a few steps from two bus stops. While some visitors will stick with the coco and cane, the neighborhood now seems open to much more.

"Now, our wine stores now don't have bullet-proof glass on the doors," said Fort Greene Association Chairman Phillip Kellogg. "And there are a couple of terrific clothing stores."

There are also existing juice bars, including a spot just a few blocks away from Jah's place, on Dekalb Avenue, Kellogg added. But the crowd suggests there's room for more.

It's not the busiest season for smoothies, "but there are always people in there," Kellogg said.

AN ALTERNATE REALITY

Ft. Greene wants less street-cleaning

The Brooklyn Paper

Sanitation officials told The Stoop this week they aren't about to reduce street-cleaning in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill so that residents can enjoy the same park as their upscale pals in Park Slope and Brooklyn Heights: the right to leave their cars in one space for most of the week.

"We have no plans to reduce the amount of street-cleaning in Fort Greene or Clinton Hill," said Kathy Dawkins, a Sanitation spokeswoman.

Currently, motorists in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill have to move their cars two to four times a week to accommodate street-cleaning, while Slope and Heights drivers

only need move their cars once or twice.

"We only want what they have," said resident Susan Butler. She and other members of the Fort Greene Association have asked Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights) to fight City Hall.

"Constituents think [the schedule] is inconvenient and nothing more than a revenue-generator," James told The Stoop. "I tend to agree."

"I spoke to [Department of Transportation] Commissioner [Iris] Weinsahl last week about changing the schedule, and she was receptive," added James.

Weinsahl — herself a Slope resident, albeit one with a driver — may be open to the issue, but Sanitation said no. —Rubinstein



Pedestrians scurry through a dangerous intersection.

Procurement sub-committee! Sure, it may sound incredibly boring, but it means that Towns can hold hearings on the no-bid contracts between the Bush Administration and Haliburton and Bechtel (among others). Give 'em hell, Ed! Talk to us. Write: Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com.

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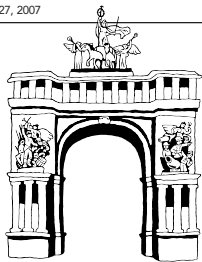
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Kids cook!



THE Stoop

PARK SLOPE PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK
WINDSOR TERRACE, KENSINGTON

Who, exactly, is Park Slope?

WHAT does a diverse neighborhood look like? That was the central question at the "I am Park Slope" discussion Sunday night at the Brooklyn Arts Exchange. But there was one major problem.

What is diversity anyway? Turns out, it's similar to what Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart once said about pornography: I can't define it, but I know it when I see it.

The panelists all took shots at defining it anyway, and describing the dream of the perfectly balanced Park Slope, but none seemed to have anything new to bring to the table.

There was the usual talk about how diversity has to do with color, ethnicity, income, and sexual orientation (the last one came courtesy of a woman who called herself "the first lesbian in Park Slope"). There were also some attempts at describing what it means to have diverse experiences, approaches to life or political views.

Then there was the usual cry against the Fourth Avenue rezoning and, of course, against the Atlantic Yards development (it wouldn't be a Park Slope event without that, would it?).

Gez, this Chicago Bears fan didn't miss the NFC championship game to hear the same old story of how Park Slope was perfect until the condo-buying Yuppies started flowing in.

The notion of a diverse Park Slope was always a figment of a liberal Utopian dream, anyway.

"New York neighborhoods have always been separate, with the Chinese living over here, the Irish or Italian over here and the Latinos over there," said Gene Russanoff, attorney for the New York Public Interest Group.

In the 1880s, Park Slope was one of the richest census tracts in the country. Sure, it went working class over the next 100 years, but today it's hardly the multi-race, multi-colored-collar neighborhood we all want.

Was it ever that way? Chris Owens certainly doesn't think so. The Prospect Heights native — who recently ran, and lost, for Congress — said his parents bought on "the other" side of Flatbush Avenue in the late 1950s because his African-American father "did not see anyone who looked like him" in Park Slope.

These days, Owens is more likely to see more variety in the Slope than his father did, but the minorities he spots might be Wall Street bankers plopping down the big bucks for the brownstones. Some diversity, one might be tempted to say.

But there is diversity — if you're willing to look beyond your one block. If you include the larger area — Gowanus, Prospect Heights and the South Slope — the greater Park Slope area is, indeed, diverse.

So look beyond someone's skin color or the content of his wallet. We may snub the new neighbors because they are "another rich, white family," but who knows, they may be French — or even Republicans!

Or, a Bears fan. How's that for diversity?

THE KITCHEN SINK
A new shopping-bag-shaped sign went up above the former **Blue Apron Foods** at Seventh Avenue and 11th Street. The new joint, called **Grob**, is owned by **Laura Nuter**, a former Blue Apron employee who bought the shop from the previous owners. Blue Apron's flagship store on Union Street is still going strong. ... South Slope graffiti artist **Backfat** got pinched by the po-po last week, but a certain **ROWMO** is moving in on his turf. Windsor Terrace spies tell us that **ROWMO** has been tagging up all over Backfat's marks. The Stoop gives **ROWMO** five days before the cops snatch his cane, too.

Jessica Root (you know her as Al Gore's point person in Park Slope) wants you to reduce your carbon emissions (and you thought your biggest problem was BO). If you're Green — and have a video camera — shoot a one- to two-minute video that demonstrates a "practical, easy and inspired way" to reduce your carbon emissions, and upload it to www.mtrk.reedguy.com before Feb. 28. ... **Fifth Avenue** merchants met last week to plan a business improvement district running from Dean to 23rd streets. The meeting was held at **Aunt Sue's** — a mainstay on the strip — and owner **Irene Lofe** provided a buffet, even if the BID is formed. Local business owners will have to contribute at least \$485 a year.

Talk to us. Write: Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com.

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Nico Lalli



Truck traffic along a residential strip of Caton Avenue is driving locals crazy.

Trucks drive Caton Ave crazy

By Christie Rizk
The Brooklyn Paper

Kensington residents are begging for help to get rid of the 18-wheelers roaring down their supposed-to-be-quiet streets — but elected officials aren't listening.

Residents of Caton Avenue, which narrows down to one lane in each direction between McDonald Avenue and Linden Boulevard, are asking that their street be redesignated as an official city truck route.

"This is not a commercial street," said Gina Duclayan, who lives at the corner of Caton and East Fourth Street. "There are a lot of children here."

Duclayan, who has lived in trucker central for three years, says that the street is meant to only be a truck route for local deliveries — yet 18-wheelers are using it as a shortcut that intersects several busier truck routes nearby.

And the outdoor rigs are rarely ticketed.

"They do virtually no enforcement of the trucking regulations," said Duclayan.

Her neighbor, Tim Molloy, agreed: "It's totally out of control. I've been complaining about it for four years."

Neighbors are hoping the NYPD will add a truck enforcement unit at Caton and McDonald avenues to bust rigs.

The fines wouldn't be cheap.

Drivers who get caught off a designated truck route twice get slapped with a fine of \$500, and a third offense doubles the penalty to \$1,000.

The fines were raised in 2003 after the Department of Transportation noticed that drivers

weren't deterred by the existing \$50 penalty.

City Councilman Bill DeBlasis (D-Park Slope) said his office would try to help get those rules enforced.

But matters seem to be getting worse, not better. A bike

lane was recently added to the street, despite the wide tractor-trailers. Two children riding their bicycles were recently sideswiped, though not seriously hurt, neighbors said.

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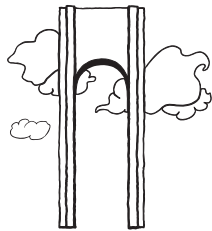
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THE STORE

BAY RIDGE-BENSONHURST

Banksteria hits Bay Ridge

Bay Ridge is in the grip of Banksteria. Will "Restaurant Row" be replaced by endless blocks of ATMs and neon signs advertising the newest promotional CD rates?

To residents caught up in "Banksteria," the answer is, of course, yes! To the rational members of the community, the whole thing is provoking a gentle yawn and a polite smile.

Thrown into the scrapheap of Bay Ridge past — somewhere between Lento's thin crust pizza and "Bridal Row" — is the latest news that is stoking the flames of "Banksteria": Tiffany Diner is closing to become a bank.

A Bay Ridge mainstay at the corner of Fourth Avenue and 90th Street since 1968, the diner will soon serve its last milkshake. Commerce Bank, which holds a long term lease on the property, plans to tear it down and open a new branch in its place. That's the same Commerce Bank that took over Kleinfeld's space, by the way (Banksteria!).

Lake June in the famous song from "Carousel," banks are indeed bustling out all over — especially around 88th Street, where one block has six banks.

"All of these banks are taking over Bay Ridge," said a small business owner on Third Avenue. "I'm telling you, in 10 years, you will be walking down these streets and everything you know will be gone and you will see nothing but banks."

Everything I know will be gone? Nothing but banks? Recent media accounts have followed the same story line: Bay Ridge's innocence is being stolen by the nameless, faceless corporate blob that swallows Moms and Pops indiscriminately in pursuit of profit.

"I don't know what their global plans are," said Happy Pets owner and Tiffany's Diner neighbor Jason. "But we certainly don't need a bank on every block."

But Yellow Hooker has to ask: If the banks are coming, couldn't it possibly be because, um, we need banks? Indeed, if the fear on the street was backed up by reality, wouldn't banks be running from — not to — our community? How could such a contradiction exist?

"People just like to complain, but without all these banks competing, we would be screwed by high fees," said local advocate and community board member Allen Bortnick.

"Besides, Commerce Bank is open seven days a week — that means Sunday, too."

So as far as I was concerned, "Banksteria" had been debunked.

Then I heard the news: Griswold's had been sold to become — that's right, you guessed it — a BANK!

"We are having an engineer come by [this week] to look the place over — and after the Super Bowl that should be it," said my source inside the restaurant.

In a word: "Noooooooooooooooooooo!" No more Friday night rib dates! No more \$11.99 burger deals on Sunday!

This isn't mere Banksteria. This is the real thing!

THE KITCHEN SINK

Thank goodness we have state Sen. Marty Golden protecting the Verrazano Bridge from would-be panic-stricken. One day after a judge freed a guy who jumped off the Empire State Building, Golden announced a bill to close a legal loophole that seemed to allow for such jumping. ... **Jobar Alhambra** was honored by CB 10 for saving a young neighbor from a seizure. Alhambra was so good, he could even save **Pat Russo's** political future, one local wag joked.

... **Rap, Nydia Velazquez** secured \$550,000 for Lutheran Medical Center's new solid care unit. Wow, that's almost half of the golden parades! The Islamic Society of Bay Ridge and the International Socialist Organization will be busying protesters to Washington to protest the war in Iraq and the "occupation of Palestine" on Jan. 27. No word on whether the committees will fund a separate bus trip to protest the notion that a "Socialist" organization would charge \$55 to get to D.C. ... **Bob Costas** — beloved HBO broadcaster, son of Queens, short yet genial man — won **Xavierian High School's** coveted Joe DiMaggio award last week for his commitment to America's children. No, he isn't announcing Little League games. He's raised millions for children's health. ... **Rev. Samuel "Billy" Kyles**, a great friend of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and one of the last people to see him alive, dropped by **Poly Prep Country Day School** for a King Day celebration last week. ... **Serech!** Our friends at **Messy Knocks!** (friends) Hey, how about finding us a house we can afford? Tell us the guy who owns the land underneath **Giulio Hyundai** and **Mazda** of Bay Ridge is selling the property right out from under the car dealer. The 10,000-square-foot lot — between Fourth and Fifth avenues — is on sale for a cool \$3 million. Giulio's lease runs through 2014. Can you say, "Buyout?"

Talk to us. Write: Shop@BrooklynPaper.com.

YELLOW HOOKER



Matthew Lysiak

Ridge blogs in smackdown



Photo op of the week

Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) forgets everything his mother told him as he manhandles an oversized pair of scissors to cut the ribbon on a new gym at PS 170 on Sixth Avenue. Joining Vinny Sciosorhands on Wednesday were (from left) District 20 Superintendent Ed Seto, Community Education Council President Carlo Scissura and an unidentified student. Five other area schools got funding through Gentile's office for similar capital projects.

The Brooklyn Paper

Two rival Bay Ridge blogs reached the one-million-hit landmark this month — and promptly started attacking each other.

The online chat forums — bayridge.com and bayridgetalk.com — just can't seem to get along.

It all started when John Malloy got kicked off bayridgetalk.com a few times last summer — "for no reason at all," he claims.

"I wanted to participate in a local online forum and this guy [the site's administrator] was just banning anyone he didn't like," said Malloy, who retaliated by starting bayridgetalk.com and posting a new cyberspace Bill of Rights. That was when the cyber-far started to fly.

"John, it will NOT work," the administrator from bayridge.com posted at the time. "I can't wait to say I told you so (I am one of those). So if (the rest of) you want to curse your ass off, call each other names, use ethnic slurs, just head on over there and enjoy, folks."

But eight months later, it looks like both sites are here to stay — and one local official has taken notice.

"I like to check both sites," Community Board 10 District Manager Josephine Beckmann said. "That's where I first heard about the bed-bug epidemic." — Matthew Lysiak

Shadows decries witch hunt

By Matthew Lysiak
The Brooklyn Paper

A lawyer for the controversial Club Shadows went on the offensive this week, calling local officials' attempt to shut down the Third Avenue nightclub a "witch hunt" and vowing to beat them when the club's case comes before state officials.

"This is a witch hunt and neighborhood hysteria brought about by misinformation group of churchgoers who mistakenly thought Shadows was a strip club, and perpetuated by a politician who only knows how to pander," said William Spanakos, the lawyer.

The "politician" in this story is Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge), who unfairly targeted Club Shadows after mistakenly thinking it was going to open as a strip club, Spanakos said.

State Liquor Authority inspectors did find flies in several booze bottles at Club Shadows' opening in November.

"What happened [was] that the rumors of the strippers turned out to be false and this pandering Gentile is still trying to cash in," Spanakos said.

"He said the facility will phase out its 150 in-patient beds, yet continue to operate its nursing home and ambulatory care services."

The latest move is an effort to thwart a November recommendation by a state commission to close most operations at the hospital, which was coming off a troubled year in which it declared bankruptcy and gave a former CEO a \$1.1-million golden parachute.

But there's no guarantee that this latest concession will buy the hospital time.

"I can't comment on any specifics, but we're certainly willing to talk to facilities," said Marc Carey, a spokesman for the state Health Department.

"On the other hand, the Commission has the force of law,

"These are serious charges and he is going to have to answer to community," Gentile told The Brooklyn Paper.

The club remains at risk of losing its liquor license pending the outcome of the charges, said SLA spokesman Bill Crowley.

"They have two real options," Crowley said. "They could make a plea agreement or go before a judge."

Club Shadows got on community radar screens only after sign featuring a curvy silhouette and the words "exotic dancers"

appeared on the club, which is on Third Avenue between 90th and 91st streets.

But the strippers never materialized, and owner Joseph Demovsky insisted it was only a misunderstanding. But Gentile showed up at the opening with SLA officers, who issued the famous fly citation.

A more serious charge of not having a properly registered liquor license is also pending.

"Not having [it] could possibly result in revoking the license," Crowley added.

Spanakos countered: "More witch hunts. There is a valid license on the premises, but it is in transition and we have submitted a name change to abide by the law."

"We are exercising our rights with the SLA," Spanakos added.

It is your newspaper people, who are in love with sensational stories and splash front pages with nonsense, that have made this a story — and that pandering Gentile is quick to follow."

and I don't think there's much wiggle room in there."

And even if there was wiggle room, Victory's supporters weren't sure they wanted to see the hospital trim its services so drastically.

"If Victory closes [in-patient] care, it will no longer be a hospital," said John Quaglione, the spokesman for state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge).

Golden had made the preservation of the hospital one of his New Year's resolutions.

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2 thugs pick on girl on Colonial Rd.

By Dana Rubinstein
and Michael Giardina
The Brooklyn Paper

68th Precinct

"Didn't Momma always say, 'Don't punch girls'?"

Two young men walked up to a woman on the morning of Jan. 16 and slugged her because they wanted her cellphone.

The 18-year-old victim was talking on her cell at the corner of Colonial Road and 85th Street when the two men approached. After the unprovoked zinger, one grabbed the \$200 Motorola Sidekick and fled toward Fifth Avenue.

Church rob

God forbid you leave your belongings at your desk — in a church! — to take a bathroom break. A woman mistakenly thought her belongings would be safe while she ran to the john on Jan. 18.

When the 38-year-old victim returned to her desk at the parish, which is on Fourth Avenue and 73rd Street, she discovered she'd been robbed.

The quick-moving robber stole her \$300 Gucci sunglasses, her \$425 Burberry red leather purse, her \$250 Burberry yellow canvas wallet, house keys, \$40, and credit cards.

The victim told cops she would try to turn the other cheek.

Laptops lost

Two laptops were stolen about a dozen blocks apart on Jan. 17.

In the first case, a Queens resident returned to his car to discover that its passenger-side front window had been smashed and his computer stolen.

The 32-year-old victim also lost two cellphones and a \$150 Sirius satellite radio from the black Dodge Charger, which had been parked on 78th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

Later that afternoon, a man returned to his gray Jeep Cherokee and found the lock on passenger-side front door lock broken, and his Dell laptop and \$500 global positioning system stolen.

eBay scam

A Bay Ridge thought he'd scored a 1969 Chevy Camaro for \$8,000 on eBay. It turned all he'd bought was humble pie.

After transferring \$8,000 from his Citibank account to the seller's account, the 72nd Street resident got some bad news via email: the supposed seller was using the online auction site as a front.

Needless to say, the victim never got his Camaro. Nor did he get his money back. But he did report the crime to the police on Jan. 15.

62nd Precinct

Dancing broke

Practice makes perfect, but it'll cost you.

A woman dancing her heart out had her purse snatched inside a Bath Avenue studio.

The woman had left her purse unattended in the dance studio, which is between Bay 13th and Bay 14th street on Jan. 19. At around 6:30 pm, a thief sneaked into the room stole her pocketbook and fled, police said.

The creep took her jewelry, credit and debit cards. There were no witnesses, police said.

Roof robber

A local supermarket and nearby bagel store were the victims of a string of recent burglaries on 20th Avenue.

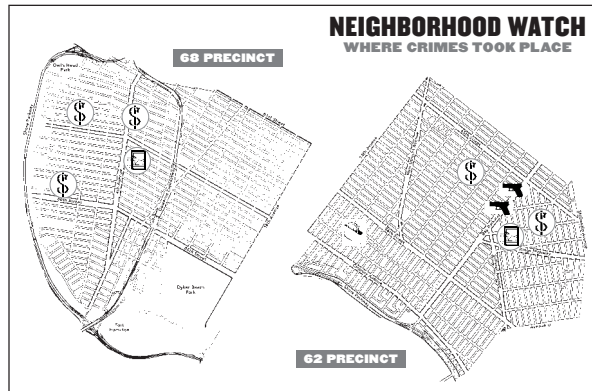
On Jan. 17, a crook cut a hole in the roof of the bagel store, which is at 64th Street, and left with \$14,000 in goods and cash.

Four days later, a grocery store at the corner of 72nd Street was the victim of a similar crime involving a similar mode of entry.

In that case, cops don't know how much cash was stolen. The store is still adding it all up.

Locked out

A married couple returned to their West Seventh Street apartment to find themselves locked



out on Jan. 19 — but it wasn't because they forgot their keys. A thief had broken into the apartment, which is between Avenue P and Avenue O, and locked the security chain on the front door, police said.

Eventually, the wife entered through the side window and discovered \$2,000 was missing from the ransacked home.

Early birds
A thief broke into a 14th Avenue home and stole \$28,000 sometime after 7 am on Jan. 16, cops said.

KEY TO THE CRIMES
 Break-in
 Robbery
 Assault
 Pod-like device taken
 Armed robbery
 Death
 Arrest
 Purse snatch
 Car stolen

Parkway bandit

A convenience store owner was held at gunpoint and robbed of \$1,300 at 3 am on Jan. 21.

Police say a thug wearing a black mask entered the store, on Bay Parkway at West Seventh Street, and threw a black plastic bag on the counter.

"I need the money, I'm sorry," he said several times. But when the owner refused, the main pulled his gun from his waist and said, "I'm not joking." The victim complied and put the money in the plastic bag.

Price of beauty

Looking good can cost a lot.

Three customers of a Bay Parkway nail salon learned that on Jan. 19 after crooks entered at around 10 pm, waved guns, and forced the women into a small room in the rear of the store.

In all, the thieves got away with \$3,000 from the women and the store, which is at 70th Street.

Mugged!

An elderly woman was mugged while entering her apartment on Avenue P on Jan. 18.

The 83-year-old woman was rushed from behind at around 9 pm as she attempting to open the door to her home, which is near West Third Street. The thief covered her mouth with his hand, and then threw her to the floor.

He swiped her purse, which held \$656, police said.



Lights! Camera! Inaction!

The Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO waterfront was packed as star-gazers hoped to catch a glimpse of actor Will Smith, who was filming his new action picture, "I Am Legend." But the former Fresh Prince was nowhere to be found — and, in fact, all the "action" took place in Manhattan. The movie is about a man who saves the world from post-apocalyptic vampires (oh, another reality show).

Drunk driver takes boy's leg

The Brooklyn Paper

A drunk driver slammed into an 11-year-old boy and severed his foot as he made his way to school on Wednesday morning.

Jackie Huang, a sixth grader, was crossing 65th Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway on his way to William McKinley JHS in Dyker Heights with his eighth-grade friend, Danny Lai, 13, when the intoxicated driver of a Lexus ran a red light, slammed into a van, sending both cars into a third vehicle.

Huang and Lai were thrown to the ground, Huang losing his foot and Lai suffering a broken elbow and other injuries, according to the Daily News.

Police identified the driver as 29-year-old Jiankai Huang (no relation to the boy).

The sixth-grader was taken to Lutheran Medical Center. His severed foot was also brought to the hospital, but it was unclear whether it could be reattached.

Huang was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated. Cops said he lost his license in 2003 for not having proper insurance.

— Dana Rubinstein

Downtown 9-11 memorial fails

The Brooklyn Paper

A six-month effort to place a piece of modern art on the Promenade to memorialize the 9-11 attack has died. Cause of death: complete apathy.

Heights resident Philip Ashby had campaigned to place a sculpture on the fabled waterfront esplanade as a memorial to New York's worst day. But he dropped the idea this month when he realized that he was the only one who wanted it.

"Nobody ever said no to me," said Ashby, who lives on Pierpont Street. "But nobody was ever really on board either."

Ashby had asked English sculptor Sir Anthony Caro to design a piece that would not only be a fitting memorial, but "an icon for Brooklyn."

Caro "was very excited" and even sent some mock-ups, said Ashby, who eventually had to give Caro the bad news: "I have failed in my quest."

The dream died, not with a bang of fiery protests but with a whimper — from Ashby.

"Without some enthusiasm other than my own," he said, "nothing will ever get done."

— Christie Rick

Smelly smackdown!

Vinnie and Vito get their noses out of joint

By Matthew Lysiak
The Brooklyn Paper

Councilman Vince Gentile and Rep. Vito Fossella haven't always seen things eye to eye — and now you can add their noses into the equation.

While Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) is still fuming about the city's slow response to the stink at the Owls Head sewage treatment plant, Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) said the mayor and his Department of Environmental Protection have come out of the nasty fight smelling like roses.

"The DEP has been less than forthcoming about the status of the plant," Gentile told the mayor in a Jan. 16 letter. "They have failed in their commitment to the Bay Ridge community."

Gentile also questioned Hizzoner's commitment to dealing with the odor problem "in a timely manner."

"As it currently stands, the [smell-fixing work] will not be completed until 2010, due, in part, to the DEP having fallen off its initial schedule," Gentile wrote. "The residents in my district have been dealing with the odor problem ... for many years now."

But in politically fractured Bay Ridge, there are two sides to every story — and Fossella had his.

"I applaud Mayor Bloomberg for agreeing to take immediate action to resolve this prob-



Owls Head sewage treatment plant in Bay Ridge still smells. Councilman Vince Gentile says the city is dragging its feet in making repairs. Rep. Vito Fossella says the city has been responsive.

lem," Fossella said in a press release this week.

Fossella did urge the DEP to speed up the installation of the remaining seven of nine sewage tank covers, but still commended Bloomberg and the DEP "for

keeping its promise to Bay Ridge to clear the air from Owls Head."

He claimed "recent action" by DEP would "help contain the foul odors this spring and summer."

Taken together, it appears

that Bloomberg is breaking his commitments and acting negligently while keeping his promises and acting quickly at the same time.

Thank goodness for the two-party system.

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So long to the slime

A spiffed-up Gowanus is closer to reality

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

The area along and around the filthy Gowanus Canal would be reborn with a restaurant stop the grimy Smith and Ninth street subway station, a public market under the viaduct

near Lowe's, "green" industries, new homes and, of course, a clean-flowing waterway under a plan released by an area community group this week.

The Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation's proposal outlines a vision for the

city's first environmentally sensitive community with a sustainable mix of local industry, retail, and residential uses.

"We want a San Antonio Riverwalk along the Gowanus," said GCCDC board member Buddy Scott, who emphasized the need for more affordable housing in the

area, particularly for seniors.

The Quixotic proposal — the latest in a decades-old effort to transform the area — calls for more residential development north of Third Street.

The area south of Third Street would remain mostly industrial, with some retail and residential mixed in.

Specifically, the plan called for the redevelopment of several neighborhood trouble spots, in-

cluding the intersection of Smith and Ninth streets, a former gas manufacturing plant near Fifth Street that's commonly known as the Public Place site, and Second Avenue's industrial corridor.

Of course, before Gowanus can become "green," it will have to be decontaminated. The neighborhood's long industrial history has left it much of it soaked with potential hazards.

The report lists 10 "potential

contaminants" in the neighborhood's soil and water, from cyanide to mercury to PCBs.

Aside from the substantial environmental obstacles, these dreams for a better Gowanus will remain just that unless the Department of City Planning gets on board. So far, the agency's response has been noncommittal.

In response to community requests, DCP will be conducting a series of meetings, hosted by Community Board 6, to develop a zoning framework to guide future land use decisions in the Gowanus Canal area," said Jennifer Torres, the agency spokeswoman. "This meeting is the beginning of a discussion and will be the first of many."

My concern is that there are groups out there representing the old economy who will do everything they can to frustrate the process," said Scott, who has fought for the canal clean-up since the late 1960s. He still vows to swim in the canal should it ever be decontaminated.

Goddamn it, one of these days, man. I'll be able to do that," said Scott.

Corrections

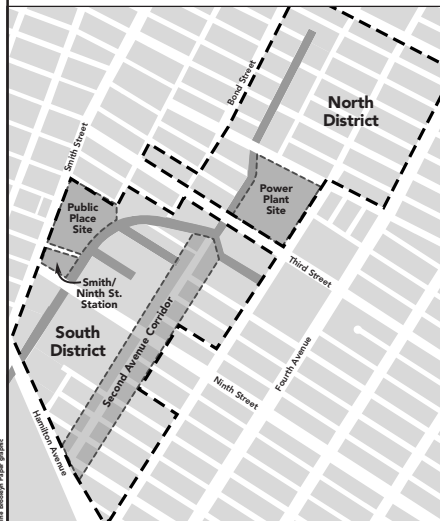
Our article about Whole Foods ("Verizon says toxic plume isn't its fault," Jan. 20) incorrectly referred to traffic expert David Ball. He is actually president of BL Companies, the architectural firm designing the new Whole Foods store.

Also, our story about the rehiring of the Cyclones' first manager, Edgar Alfonzo ("Thumbs up! Fonzie's back to return Cyclones to glory," Jan. 13) misstated the conclusion of the Cyclones' 2001 championship season. Yes, the Cyclones did beat the Staten Island Yankees in the first round of the playoffs, but it was a two-games-to-one series victory, not a sweep.

The Cyclones went on to win the first game of the final series against the Williamsport Crosscutters, but the remainder of the series was canceled as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Brooklyn Riviera?

The Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation wants to fix the mess that is Gowanus. Its two-pronged approach calls for strengthening the industrial sector south of Third Street while expanding residential development north of it. The GCCDC pinpointed particular sites (some are indicated below) that are prime for an overhaul.



Toxins?

What toxins?

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

Some toxic soil along the Gowanus Canal cannot be cleaned — but don't worry, the increasingly hot properties nearby will still be safe for some people to live on, state engineers said this week.

It would be impossible to dig out the contaminants in their entirety," Gardiner Cross, a Department of Environmental Conservation engineer, told Community Board 6 on Monday.

Cross was on hand to share his cleanup plan for the so-called "Public Place," a former gas manufacturing plant on the west bank of the canal, a site that many in the neighborhood hope to see redeveloped (see map).

Cross and other environmental experts said the toxins will remain, but will be too far underground to pose a health hazard.

The cleanup will be sufficient to support virtually any development," he said.

Visually, a quick in-state environmental law prevents formerly industrial sites from being redeveloped with farms or single-family homes — though, oddly, apartments and condos are allowed.

The ban on farms is obvious, but the ban on single-family homes caused a stir at Monday's otherwise calm meeting.

"So renters can live there, but not homeowners?" asked Celia Caccia, a fiery CBO member.

Yes, and here's the reason: individual owners are less likely to report changes on the site that could damage the keep contaminated soil from moving, Cross said.

"We don't want someone digging in their backyard for a swimming pool, or doing work on the basement without being careful of what's down there," Cross said.

The DEC engineer is now directing cleanup of the former Keyspan gas plant, a large site bounded by Fifth, Hoyt and Smith streets. The long-shuttered plant is in the early phases of a cleanup slated to result in the development of a public park and a mixed-income housing complex (see main story).

One area resident, Marlene Donnelly, said she was comforted to hear that the land could be redeveloped, but worried about the safety of her own single-family home close to the canal on Sackett Street.

"There are reasons that they barred single-family housing and farming from the site," she said, ruefully.

"We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails."
—Bertha Galloway

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OUR OPINION

Name 'park' for a hero

BROOKLYN missed a great opportunity when Bruce Ratner sold the naming rights to his Nets arena to a foreign bank with no connection to the borough.

It's regrettable that Ratner did not find a way to name his sports arena after Brooklyn Dodge Jackie Robinson, choosing instead to partner with a bank with links to slavery.

We must not allow the same mistake to be made at another major development site near by. That's why The Brooklyn Paper is calling for the condo-and-open space development that is being built along the Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO waterfront to be named "Harriet Tubman Park."

Like the squandered opportunity at Atlantic Yards, the so-called Brooklyn Bridge Park offers a historic chance to honor a great American in a perfect location. The Fulton Landing area is believed to be a site through which fugitive slaves sought passage along Tubman's "underground railroad," on their way to safer areas to the north. And the site has a commanding view of the

Statue of Liberty, the nation's greatest symbol of freedom.

A campaign a few years ago to rename Fulton Street in Tubman's honor fizzled and the city ended up only co-naming a portion of the street after her. We felt then, as we do now, that a portion of Fulton Street was an inadequate choice because New York should honor Tubman in a place of the highest visibility — to reflect that she is a hero for all Americans, not just African-Americans.

It is a shame that great Americans are frequently honored only by their own racial group. Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey and Martin Luther King Jr., for instance, have streets named after them in Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant even though their contributions to American history are a legacy for all of us.

Harriet Tubman was a modern-day Moses. An



escaped slave, she returned repeatedly to pre-Emancipation Maryland to rescue, by her estimate, 7,000 slaves. She later became a spy for the North during the Civil War and even helped plan a raid that freed 750 more human beings.

The naming of "Harriet Tubman Park" would not only raise the profile of this great American hero, but also undo some of the damage Ratner has done with his insensitive partnership with a bank founded on profits made from the blood of the human beings Tubman devoted her life to saving.

Like Barclays, America has an ugly history with slavery, and, as the saying goes, those who don't know history are condemned to repeat its mistakes. Naming Brooklyn Bridge Park after Harriet Tubman would go a long way towards stopping that cycle of ignorance.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Chris Reilly

LETTERS

Ratner's 'blood money' fills Paper's mailbox

To the editor,

Your headline on Bruce Ratner's deal with Barclays Bank over the naming of his proposed arena ("Blood Money" — Ratner pockets hundreds of millions from British bank tied to slave trade, apartheid, Jan. 20) grossly crossed the line.

I have noticed that your paper has taken a very non-journalistic stance towards the Atlantic Yards development, but this was too much.

Yes, the various points you raised in your article are relevant, but, as journalists, aren't you supposed to let your readers form their own opinions from the facts presented by responsible reporting?

Clearly, your only intention was to further your individual viewpoint against Atlantic Yards. I know that the Atlantic Yards side will go to any length to further its cause, but this was particularly shameful!

Terrence J. Allen, Prospect Heights

Ditto that

To the editor,

So, way back in the 1700s, the Barclays people were involved in slave trade! And, a few centuries later, they were working with the Nazis to rip off the Jewish folk caught up in the Holocaust. After that, Barclays was involved in dealing with the apartheid government of South Africa. That sounds pretty rotten on the part of Barclays.



Last week's front page.

You likened the Barclays deal to someone building an arena in heavily Jewish Borough Park and naming it Volkswagen Field. Why did you go with a relatively inexpensive Volkswagen when you could choose an elegant Daimler product like a Mercedes-Benz?

I bet that in Brooklyn, there are more Jewish folks than any other ethnic group who own Adolf Hitler's beloved Benz. Just look in the driveways of the mansions on and off Ocean Parkway around the Avenue R neighborhood. Almost every driveway has a Benz or BMW in it! And, these folks are observant Jewish people. They seem to have overcome certain feelings about German-made products, wouldn't you agree? Perhaps, time heals all wounds.

Kings County such a windfall!

Vigor Eriksen, Bay Ridge
Point of information: The naming rights money goes to developer Bruce Ratner, not to the people of Kings County.

Blame Ratner

To the editor,

People who thought that Bruce Ratner had their best interests in mind were fooled by him and by their own ignorance.

Barclays shouldn't be blamed for entering into a business deal with Ratner. Blame Ratner and the people who allowed him to proceed with his project.

Brian Schnabel, Bay Ridge

Brooklyn's soul

To the editor,

The Brooklyn Paper's coverage of the Atlantic Yards development has been, and still remains, an essential voice of fairness and balance in this debate.

The Brooklyn Paper's disclosure to the public of relevant facts puts The Paper in a minority media position. In fact, so few media are even covering the opposition to the project.

The New York Times, the supposed media steward for the city, has only given lip service to the issues, and the New York Post's harsh op-ed tone is outrageously mean-spirited. The opponents to this project are essentially fighting this battle alone, dismissed by the general news media, borough president, mayor, former governor, and many fellow New Yorkers.

The Atlantic Yards development is a fight for property rights and the soul of Brooklyn. This collective Brooklyn soul, I believe, is based on cultural and economic diversity, fundamental fairness, and a toughness to fight for justice and what one believes is right.

The question then becomes, is this soul for sale? Concocted by Ratner and supported by many government officials with questionable personal ties to him, Atlantic Yards will forever change the face, and soul, of Brooklyn.

The people who are currently living in the area to be taken by eminent domain and by redevelopment are certainly angered. Who gave Ratner the right to take their homes? The people who worked hard to revitalize this section of Brooklyn, starting in the 1970s, are certainly angered. Who gave Ratner the right to use his political power to

muscle out our claim?

The people who moved to Brooklyn and planted roots in recent years are certainly angered.

The Barclays deal shows that a few pieces of silver can buy the soul of Brooklyn. What's for sale next, Mr. Ratner? Our dignity?

I, for one, am glad The Brooklyn Paper is fighting to protect the soul of Brooklyn.

Charles W. McMillen Jr., Park Slope

What about Citibank?

To the editor,

Citibank was founded on money from the slave trade, too, you know. In November 2002, a lawsuit was filed against Citigroup and 19 other companies for reparations because of alleged support to the apartheid regime that ruled South Africa. Citibank also trafficked in Nazi gold.

Where was your indignation when the naming rights to the new Shea Stadium was sold to Citibank?

That "Blood Money" headline was out of control. Where does Councilwoman Letitia James do her banking?

Mark Phillips, Carroll Gardens

...and Jefferson?

To the editor,

I strongly disagreed with your "Blood Money" front page.

Following your logic, we should banish Thomas Jefferson from all history books because he actively supported slavery. Following your logic, we should condemn him and ignore the fact that he was the author of the Constitution, who wrote those memorable

words, "We the people."

Should we refer to Thomas Jefferson as "President Blood Money"?

I am a long time resident of this area and you have made me ashamed to be a resident of Park Slope. How dare you drag us down with your views and try to bully the rest of us into sheepishly accepting them? So far, Marty Markowitz is the only public official who has the guts to publicly stand up to you.

There is nothing objective about your articles or editorials.

Give Ratner credit where credit is due: At least he is doing something positive for the borough of Brooklyn. There are jobs, there are more choices for everyday folks to shop, to live and enjoy the fruits of commerce.

Would you rather have the empty railway? Your negativity does not benefit anyone, including yourself. You have made this once-venerable newspaper an embarrassment. If we follow your self-righteous logic, we should never buy a Sony TV, drive a Toyota or play Nintendo because the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

Should the upwardly mobile not buy the German-made Mercedes because of WWII? You give political correctness a bad name.

Sue Hsia, Park Slope

Point of information: Thomas Jefferson did not write the Constitution. And The Paper did not suggest that we ignore history, far from it. Our story about the Barclays deal sought to educate our readers about historical facts they could ignore or embrace. As for Ratner's contribution to our borough, he's no Santa Claus. Taxpayers will pay many of the developer's bills, while he keeps the profits.



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Atlantic Yards is not the only thing on Paper readers' minds

Garden furor grows

To the editor,

It's bad enough the Church of Gethsemane garden is being sold to condo developers for millions, but I, for one, am troubled by having to endure a sanctimonious justification for the sale by the church's pastor ("Rev. Liz Speaks: Garden Must Go," Park Slope Edition, Jan. 13). I've seen Jesus invoked to justify many silly things, but never a lucrative real-estate deal.

It is equally frustrating that the writer, Nica Lalli, accepted Rev. Liz's face value. The Gethsemane congregation is apparently made up of convicts, ex-cons and their families. Lalli says the church is somehow helping to reduce prison recidivism. If so, then how? Can the church produce statistics?

Which raises another question: who exactly is meeting at this church, which is two blocks from PS 107? If ex-cons are likely to commit crimes, as Lalli tells us, then does the Gethsemane congregation pose a threat? We don't know the answer because when various local residents called Rev. Liz to politely discuss the garden sale, she hung up on us.

They used to feed Christians to the lions. Rev. Liz is feeding her neighbors to profit-hungry developers, developers who don't even have the dubious claim to the virtue the Rev. asserts. But then neither the Rev. Liz nor the writer Lalli live next to the garden, so they won't suffer years of constipation for the privilege of having their light shine in vain.

That must make it easier to be sanctimonious.

Edward Levine, Park Slope

Art attacked

To the editor,

Your recent news story ("Cough, cough: Philip Morris's arts funding to be slashed," Jan. 20) and the adjacent editorial cartoon ("All drawn out") attacked Altria, the parent of Philip Morris, for scaling back its support for the arts.

Hmmmm. Are you crusading for the company to remain highly profitable so it can continue its grant programs? That, of course, means enlisting kids to start smoking. Is that the policy of The Brooklyn Paper to promote smoking and encourage youngsters to take up the habit so as to replace the users who die, in order to perpetuate sales and profits, thus sustaining the company's support of the arts?

Which is it, Paper? More smoking and more grant money, or less smoking and less grant money?

Bob Keefe, Clinton Hill
Editor's note: Since you asked, our answer is this: The choice is not "more smoking" vs. "less grant money." Altria could very easily curtail its enormous profits — \$3 billion in the third quarter of 2006, by the way — with very little pain in the boardroom.

Help that old man!

To the editor,

Dominick Diomedé is a special kind of man (94 years old and homeless; Jan. 13). When our seniors are up in age, they should not have to go through things like this. We have any more respect for our seniors?

Our seniors should be congratulated and not be put on the streets of New York. It is so sad that Diomedé's landlords want him out so that they can get \$2,000 more. How greedy can you get?

If I had a place, I would rent it to Mr. Diomedé.

Dolores Le Grande, neighborhood withheld

To the editor,

What is Dominick Diomedé's address so we can throw eggs at his landlord's window? Are these people? If they are, they are bold enough to tell a 94-year-old man to leave their home, they should be held enough to state their justification for this in the Paper.

K. Fenton, Park Slope

Working hard

To the editor,

I think you should call attention to the Ready, Willing & Able workers who are sweeping up in many neighborhoods. For years, one of the most embarrassing aspects of Park Slope has been the trash in the streets. The houses are beautiful, the shops are trendy, but the sidewalks have always looked like a garbage pit.

I've been picking up paper on the streets for years, trying to start a mass movement, but it never caught on. As a Boy Scout leader, I explored whether we could work out a system where homeless people could clean up the streets for pay.

Our actual idea was to give the men shirts saying, "I'm Cleaning Up Park Slope. Won't You Help," and hope people would give them tips.

It was immensely complicated, thanks to all the bonding, insurance, and other facts of modern life. We gave it up.

But the Doe Fund's Ready, Willing & Able program takes homeless men and women and puts them in a work routine. It's very demanding — they have to wear uniforms, show up for work on time every day, and produce — but it pays off and they are doing a terrific job.

So my suggestion is this: It's not out of bounds to tip these people. They are not city workers and it is not corruption. Slipping them a dollar and telling them they're doing a great job can only make them feel better.

This is a great program and doesn't cost taxpayers a penny. We should all support it.

Bill Tucker, Park Slope

Bad design, guys

To the editor,

I have been a reader of your paper since your earliest days. Your distinctive blue logo with big, bold white lettering made it easy to spot on newsstands and in street kiosks — even while driving.

Now you've muddled the logo by filling the letters in with black ink, changing the graduated blue background to an uglier uniform blue, removing the eye-catching red bars along the top and bottom of the banner and then insulting your readers by choosing a type font which looks more like it belongs on the cover of a fourth grade reader than on a newspaper.

What were you thinking?

One can only hope your news coverage will remain relatively unchanged, considering how many Brooklynites rely on your paper to keep up with stories of vital interest in our borough. We don't need trendy there either.

If you are truly Brooklyn's Real Newspaper — then stay true to yourselves and your readers. Please go back to the old logo so we CAN find your paper from a distance.

Frank J. Grass, Bay Ridge

Editor's note: While we appreciate Mr. Grass's comment, we do not encourage readers to try to find our paper in sidewalk kiosks while driving.

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We hope everyone appreciates our free home delivery, but realize there are exceptions to every rule.

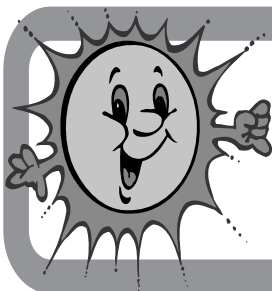
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By e-mail: Letters@BrooklynPaper.com. All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.



The Brooklyn Paper 2007 SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

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academy, travel camp (featuring overnight trips).

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www.congregationbethelohim.org

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Full Day: 9 am-3 pm

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Director: Bobbie Finkelstein
July 2 - Aug. 17
Full day: 9 am-5 pm
Extended hours: 8 am-6 pm
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Movin' On Travel Camp

Ages: entering 5th-9th grades
Director: Bobbie Finkelstein
July 2 - Aug. 17

Full day: 9 am-5 pm

Extended hours: 8 am-6 pm

Activities: Daily trips, swimming, two overnights, Leadership Development Program for kids entering 9th grade.

•OPEN HOUSE:

Sunday, March 11, 11 am-1 pm

Park Explorers

611 Eighth Ave., Park Slope

(718) 788-3620

Director: Chris Altman
www.parkexplorers.com
Ages: 4 to 14

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www.polyprep.org

Director: Michael Junsch

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July 2-Aug. 3, 2007

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July 2-Aug. 3, 2007

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Ages 6-16

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•Computer Camp

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Ages 5-12

Full day: 9 am-3 pm

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181 Lincoln Pl., Park Slope

(718) 788-6060 x. 6540

www.berkeleycarroll.org

mclary@berkeleycarroll.org

Director: Marlene Clary

Ages: 8 to 14

July 2 to August 2

Full day: 9 am-4 pm

Extended hours: 8 am-6 pm

Activities: music, dance, theatre, arts, ceramics, media and graphic arts, all in air conditioned classrooms, daily noon-time performances, plus performances and exhibitions at the end of camp. Swimming also offered.

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1701 & 712 Carroll St., Park Slope

(718) 788-6060 x. 6620

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Director: Judy Valdez

jvaldez@berkeleycarroll.org

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KIDS THE TEENS SCHOOL Brooklyn Paper CAMPS STYLE PARENT MUSIC

'Alternadad' can't tell Slope boy from girl

THE OH SO FEISTY one thinks Alternadad is an idiot. And she told him so. It happened on Sunday night at the Tea Lounge on Union Street in Park Slope, where Neal Pollack (a.k.a. "Alternadad") was promoting his new book.

Early in the reading, Pollack ranted about "The Backyardigans," a Nick Jr. show he thinks is unctuous and stifling to the imagination. He much prefers that his 4-year-old son, Elijah, watch a classic superhero cartoon like Justice League of America. Then he looked out at the audience.

"Does that boy out there watch the Justice League of America?" he asked. Everyone looked around wondering whom Pollack was talking about.

"That boy," he pointed right at OSFO, who was wearing her brand-new Navy blue Brooklyn Industries hoodie — with the hood up.

"That's not a boy, that's my daughter!" Smartmom corrected. On cue, OSFO removed her hood, which revealed her beautiful, ultra-feminine face and long billowing brown hair.

"I thought she was a boy because she was wearing a hood," Alternadad said.

THEM'S fightin' words in gender-neutral Park Slope, where a neighborhood developed last year after a woman inadvertently assigned gender status to a Navy blue hat that was left at a playground.

You could say that the reading didn't get off to such a good start. And Smartmom was already miffed because Dumb Editor asked her at the last

minute to cover it for The Paper. Still, she went along with it, judging this book reading by its cover (a funny picture of a rubber ducky with a nose ring in his bright orange beak).

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

Before the reading, Smartmom sauntered right up to Pollack and introduced herself. "Hi, I'm Smartmom," she said. "I'm Dumbdad," Pollack answered. "There, you have your lead."

Snarky. Very snarky. This hipster guy is one super ironic dude. Still, she tried to keep her mind open to Pollack, whose new tome is getting raves (which always raises Smartmom's eyebrow).

Next problem: finding a seat. Not an easy task on Sunday night when the Tea Lounge is packed with childless twenty- and thirtysomethings doing whatever it is they do with their laptops.

Finally, a scuzzy yellow armchair freed up and OSFO grabbed it.

POLLACK read from the preface of his "hell-like-it-is" parenting book for people who spent their pre-kid years, like him, obsessed with popular culture, babes, bars and bongs.

Big surprise: the book was all about poop.

Like many a snarky guy, Pollack is obsessed with excrement — the most-dreaded reality of fatherhood for many a would-be dad.

Pollack told of the time his 2-year-old son took off his diaper and threw poop all over his bedroom.

There went Smartmom's eyebrow again. Ho freakin' hum, the mother of two thought to herself.

The big surprise of the book is really no surprise for anyone who has had a kid (presumably, Pollack's audience). The "Alternadad" comes to realize that he loves his kid even more than he used to love the Sex Pistols. It's a rocky, often painful, ride from rock-and-roll dreamer to responsible and pragmatic parent. But he loves it in the end.

IN the book, Pollack discovered that such love trumps going out to the midnight show at Union Hall or Southpaw. Sure, he still goes out. But, frankly, why bother? Judging from the many "no-tyranny-cute-and-cool" anecdotes throughout the book, his kid really is the best show in town.

And that's the part that made Smartmom squirm. Pollack acts like he's the only parent in the world who thinks his kid says the damndest things.

Just spend a half hour eavesdropping at Sweet Melissa's and you'll get better material than his.



Author Neal Pollack ("Alternadad") gets grilled by Smartmom (left) after his reading at the Tea Lounge in Park Slope on Sunday, Jan. 21.

Perhaps no one has had the guts to say it, so Smartmom will Pollack is not the first cool guy to procreate. Even Keith Richards is a dad, for Buddha's sake.

This edgy writer guy with his not-so-edgy book deal from Pantheon and a savvy publicist to boot may be funny, but so is Smartmom herself. You can go to the Tea Lounge and hear her read (to herself) any time you want.

Yet here comes "Alternadad," this belligerent, belov, veteran of artsy performance spaces and poetry slams in the backroom of independent bookstores. Suddenly, he grows up and becomes a Dad. And he likes it. In fact, he finds it amazing! It's even stupendous! It's even better than the sex he no longer has. Now Smartmom knows he's nuts.

So you can see why Smartmom, who's been mmmmying for 16 years, was annoyed having to listen to this cool cat's initiation into parenthood.

Needless to say, Pollack's

got sequel written all over him. Heck, he's got a cottage industry with his kid: Elijah Takes Therein Lessons. Elijah Meets Pam Smith. Elijah Gets Thrown Out of Waldorf School.

A TV deal is no doubt in the works. This kid Do I really need to hear Neal Pollack kvell about his kid: "Elijah is imaginative. He's wonderfully creative. He asks interesting scientific questions, and makes up imaginative superheroes. He's a smart kid and great to have around. He is endlessly fun and endlessly hilarious."

Blah. Blah. Blah. Speaking of kids, OSFO really is one smart cookie, too. She called it as she saw it: Alternadad really is an idiot.

Correction

In last week's column ("OSFO gets a piano"), Helen Richmond's name was misspelled. Smartmom regrets the error — and to prove it, she'll recommend that you visit Richmond's Web site: www.chocchipmusic.org.

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verses & reverses

BY LEON FREILICH

Once again, we invited Leon Freilich, the poet laureate of Park Slope, to weigh in with some low-cal verse. Here is this week's poetic offering, "On the Golden Coast."

Who says that therapy doesn't work?
Take Timothy, for instance:
He put his cash-flow debts behind.

And now has a job at St. Vincent's.

And Gregory — he's another example:
In the past he couldn't journey.
Yet now the Brooklynite travels widely.

With his kids and his wife the attorney.

So sofa sessions have their uses
And you've seen the proof exists:
Both Tim and Greg have profited greatly.

(Of course, they're therapists.)

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

January 27, 2007

'Four' scores

Laurie Anderson joins the Bklyn Philharmonic for one big night

By Andrea Russell
for The Brooklyn Paper

"Different is what always appeals to me," Laurie Anderson was saying the other day. "I'd choose [it] over beautiful anytime."

It's a good thing she feels that way, because the electronic music visionary is teaming up with the Brooklyn Philharmonic to present "Four Scores," a night of newly reworked songs at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

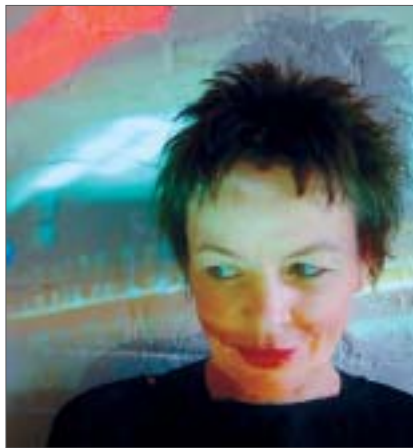
"I'm excited to work with the orchestra," says Anderson, "because I really appreciate the beauty of using things that don't plug in. I always make colossal mistakes as an orchestra because I have no idea what I'm doing. It will be interesting to work with someone who really does."

The evening will also feature big-name stars Nellie McKay, Joan Osborne and Suzanne Vega.

"I get the sense that the other performers are, like me, really interested in inventing new stuff," said Anderson. "We all have very, very different approaches and different themes. You have a folk singer in Suzanne, and a pop singer like Joan who's also an incredible blues belter, and Nellie, who's got an extremely individual style, and then me, who is more from the electronic performance world. It'll be interesting to see how much the orchestra makes those four styles sound even more unique. Or will it make them sound a little more similar? That's what I'm looking forward to seeing."

Adam Teeter, spokesman for the Philharmonic, described the new series as a genre-blending program featuring collaborations between innovative contemporary artists and the Brooklyn Philharmonic — a goal of the Philharmonic since its inception.

That commitment has not gone unnoticed. The group has won 21 awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers for "Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music." (See story below.)



Big science: Laurie Anderson helps the Brooklyn Philharmonic perform experiments in sound in "Four Scores" on Feb. 1 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

This show is especially important, Teeter says, because it represents the diverse energy and spirit of New York and, in particular, Brooklyn.

Anderson's own spirit, however, isn't always met with such open arms. In fact, re-

cently Anderson's famed Talking Stick was confiscated by the FBI. The self-invented instrument, a six-foot long, baton-like device that can access and replicate any sound was removed from the mailroom of a Chicago museum where it was to be added to the ex-

MUSIC

The Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra presents "Four Scores" on Feb. 1 at 8 pm at Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets: \$25-\$105. For information call (718) 488-5700 or visit www.brooklynphilharmonic.org.

isting collection. It had arrived, along with about 60 other packages on a day when President Bush happened to be visiting the museum. Although the contents of all of the packages were examined for the president's security, only Anderson's Talking Stick — which she created for use on her Moby Dick tour in 1999 — disappeared.

She saw the disappearance as a metaphor for the state of creative values in our country.

"This is not a [social] climate that smiles upon experimentation or being different," she said. "It's a climate that likes similarity and tries to get people really excited about the iPhone, but forgets about Martin Luther King Day or what it means to suddenly be in a place where it doesn't matter what Congress says."

Such talk is revolutionary to some, but it rolls out of Anderson's mouth like a politician's stump speech. And it has always been that way, ever since this maverick performance artist began her career in 1969. Since then, Anderson has become a luminary in the avant-garde music world, and her art has been as varied as it has been innovative.

Her innovation will continue with the Philharmonic's programming, providing the opportunity to work with people outside of her normal realm.

"That's why I live here," she says. "I'm in a lot of different worlds: the theatre world, the music world, the academic world — and the boundaries are not as strong as they would be in other cities. It's possible to talk to or work with other artists and that's what I've always really loved about being here."

BOOKS

Canon-ized

Name another author who moved to New York at age 26 to learn English and started his writing career with a grammar course at NYU.

It doesn't happen too often — but neither do novels like "Tales from the Town of Widows," the debut by James Canon, a former Williamsburg resident who will return to the borough for a reading next week.

"Brooklyn has the largest, most vibrant community of artists in the New York area," Canon told GO Brooklyn. "I'm very excited to do a reading where it's at."

Set in a fictional Colombian town, the book follows the lives of men who are all killed or "recruited" by guerrillas, and the women who are left to fend for themselves. Along the way, Canon introduces us to colorful characters, including an amphetamine-addicted magistrate, a stern schoolmistress and a cow named Perestroika.

James Canon will read at the Park Slope Barnes & Noble (267 Seventh Ave. between Fifth and Sixth streets) at 7:30 pm on Jan. 29. For information call (718) 832-9066. — John Varmus

FESTIVAL

DUMBO dance

Trapeze acts, more than 200 dancers, 60 choreographers and seven days of performances? Is this a new reality show?

Not, it's the Cool New York Dance Festival, a weeklong celebration featuring dozens of modern dance companies at DUMBO's White Wave Performance Space.

Now in its fourth year, the festival prides itself on being "a place for the dance community to come together and share ideas," according to Festival Director Liz Flynn. "What we do is allow emerging choreographers a platform to present their work. Our doors are always open to young artists."

Included in the spectacle will be the Amy Marshall Dance Company, which Flynn calls "a shining new star in the New York dance community." Also not to be missed are the aforementioned trapeze pieces (or, as the dance crowd calls them, "aerial works"), one of which is being put together by White Wave's artistic director Young Soon Kim.

Cool New York 2007 Dance Festival will take place at the White Wave's John Ryan Theater (25 Jay St. between John and Plymouth streets). Performances are scheduled for Jan. 25-28 and Feb. 1-4 beginning at 7 pm and 9 pm Thursday through Saturday, and at 4 pm and 6 pm Sunday. Tickets are free, donations encouraged. For information call (718) 855-8822 or visit www.whitewavedance.com. — Rob M. Errera

MUSIC

Catch the 'Clap'

After the staggering success of their self-released, eponymous first record in 2005, Brooklyn-based band Clap Your Hands Say Yeah are releasing the follow up, "Some Loud Thunder," on Jan. 30 (although in-the-know fans have been able to download the record from the band's Web site since Jan. 16).

A rollicking mix of rock, folk, pop and sing-along anthems — specifically the standout "Satan Says Dance" — "Some Loud Thunder" has energy to spare, but isn't shy on wit either.

It's a rarity for an independent band to make it this big on its own, but with a devoted fan base, this quieter show no signs of slowing down. And with the release of this new, 12-song disc, you'll not only be clapping your hands, but stomping your feet, singing along and saying "Yeah."

"Some Loud Thunder" by Clap Your Hands Say Yeah will be released on Jan. 30. For information visit www.clapyourhandssayyeah.com. — Adam Rathe

Get your 'Phil'

Brooklyn Philharmonic opens 53rd season with 'Earth Awakened'

By Kevin Filipksi
for The Brooklyn Paper

The didgeridoo, an Aboriginal wind instrument thought to be the world's oldest, has "a haunting sound," according to Michael Christie, music director of the Brooklyn Philharmonic. Despite this — or perhaps because of it — Christie makes liberal use of the instrument in "Earth Awakened," the kickoff to the Philharmonic's 53rd season, which will premier on Feb. 3 at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House.

Composer Peter Sculthorpe said in a recent interview that, "I have always been attracted to the [didgeridoo] which is, in my opinion, the quintessential Australian instrument."

The show will begin with a pair of compositions by the Australian Sculthorpe,

ened," the kickoff to the Philharmonic's 53rd season, which will premier on Feb. 3 at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House.

Composer Peter Sculthorpe said in a recent interview that, "I have always been attracted to the [didgeridoo] which is, in my opinion, the quintessential Australian instrument."

The show will begin with a pair of compositions by the Australian Sculthorpe,

"Earth Cry" and "Mangrove," both of which feature William Barton, an Australian of Aboriginal descent who is coming to Brooklyn specifically for the performances, playing the didgeridoo (pronounced dij-uh-REE-doo).

"When programming this concert, I immediately thought of Peter's pieces because they're so connected to the earth," says Christie. "Mangrove" brings to mind the spaciousness of the Outback, and "Earth Cry" is really a ritual tribal dance.

"Earth Cry" is based upon an Aboriginal chant from northern Australia," Sculthorpe said in a recent interview. "I chose the chant because, in changing the mode from major to minor, it is not unlike melodies of my own devising."

"Mangrove," the perfect introduction to Sculthorpe's musical style, is an 18-minute work sculpted as a mammoth, imposing structure (think of Ayers Rock, one of the most monumental of Australia's natural See EARTH AWAKENED on page 12



Let's dance: Dancers from nicholasleichterdance add world premier choreography to the BPO's "Earth Awakened" performances.

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100 Wine Tips

Chile

By Darrin Siegfried

I wrote last week that I have just returned from a trip to Chile, my first visit there. I was fortunate to have been chosen as one of the nine judges for the Annual Wines of Chile competition. For more on the competition, and for a list of the wines which won awards, the Wines of Chile website at www.winesofchile.org is very helpful, well laid out and user-friendly.

Chile has been making wine since the arrival of the Spanish in the 1500s. As with California, the País grape (also known as Mission) was the first to be planted. While the history books tell us that wine was made in order that the priests could say Mass, the size of the vineyards planted reminds us that the Spanish were wine drinkers at home, and wanted wine in the New World, too. Early attempts to grow wine-making grapes in other Spanish holdings such as Mexico, the Caribbean and Peru were unsuccessful, but Chile proved to have several areas that were ideal for vitis vinifera, and wine-making quickly became an important part of the Chilean economy.

In the mid 1800s, French grape varieties began to arrive in Chile, many originally brought from Europe for research and experimentation by Claudio Gay of the University of Chile's Quinta Normal agricultural school. Soon after, Silvestre Ochagavía began to introduce such well-known European varieties as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Carménère (soon to be abandoned in Bordeaux, but destined to become Chile's "signature" wine grape), Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and Riesling. The quality of the wines made from these grapes led to their becoming more widely planted, and today it is rare to find any wine made from the País grape.

During this expansion of fine wine making, many of the wealthiest families in Chile planted vineyards on the land surrounding their homes, and serving fine wine from their own vineyards came to be seen as one of the ultimate forms of hospitality. Many of the finest wines being made in Chile today are from these same vineyards, and the pride that the families take in their wines is evident.

The Modern Era for winemaking in Chile began during the 1970s, when restrictive domestic regulations were repealed and the government made it easier for Chile's wines to be exported. The United States and the United Kingdom became, and remain, Chile's primary importers of wine. Spain's Miguel Torres set up his family's first New World venture in the

Curicó Valley, and his modern winery, complete with temperature-controlled stainless steel fermentation tanks, became the model for many of today's wineries. Wineries were updated, and native Rauli wood tanks were soon replaced by stainless steel, and French and North American barrels came into use for barrel-aging fine red wines.

The next step in modernization took place in the vineyards. New grape varieties, as well as newer clones of existing varieties, were planted. Drip irrigation, using the amazingly clean water that comes from melting glaciers high in the not-too-distant Andes came into use, as well as more modern vertical trellising, which replaced the colorful but inefficient Ramada system. Better grapes and a better yield became the norm.

It was during this time that Carménère came into its own. Carménère is a Bordeaux grape, which needed more sunlight and warmth than the usual Bordeaux summer provides. After the Phylloxera blight of the mid 1800s hit France, Carménère was almost never replanted in Bordeaux and it came to be referred to as an extinct grape. In a fortuitous mistake, it was discovered that many of the vines planted in Chile as Merlot were actually Carménère. There are still vineyards where Carménère and Merlot are planted together, but newer plantings keep the two vines separate, and the grapes are usually vinified separately. Today, no other country produces Carménère as fine as does Chile.

IN a search for land which would grow great grapes, grapes that will express "terroir", Chile today is expanding the area under vine, often returning to sites originally planted by the earliest Spanish settlers. The Elqui Valley in the north, Bio-Bio in the south, and Osoorno in the foothills of the Andes in the east are areas to watch. Their wines are doing very well and should continue to improve.

Chile has a well-deserved good reputation in the American market. The wines that have been exported to us, since the earliest days of their arrival, have been well made wines, and have been good values. Many 58 wines from Chile beat the pants of more expensive wines from California, Australia, France, Italy and Spain. Wine drinkers who have had such positive experiences drinking these everyday-affordable Chilean wines do not hesitate when a more expensive wine from the same winery is offered. Good marketing? No... GREAT marketing!



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Calling 'home'

Fort Greene wine bar finds legs with new chef

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Paper

The problem with Top 10 restaurant lists is that no sooner do I file one than I discover another eatery I'd like to add to the roundup. Such is the case with Stonehome Wine Bar, which will start the list for 2007.

The owners, Bill Stenebjerg (Stenebjerg is Norwegian for "stone home") and Rose Hermann opened the bar in 2003. The couple has lived in Fort Greene since the early 1980s, when "most of the food in the neighborhood was served behind bulletproof glass," says Stenebjerg.

Stenebjerg serves as the bar's sommelier, while Hermann, who is an artist and furniture designer, created the warm, modern interior. The sensuously curved cherry-wood bar, the toffee-colored Ultrasead banquettes, the flattering lighting, and music played at a volume that encourages conversation contribute to a sexy ambience that invites lingering. It's a definite date place.

In April, the proprietors hired chef John Gibson (formerly of Ventus in Manhattan and Lucy's in Babylon, Long Island) who added a full dinner menu to the snacks, cheese plate and charcuterie already offered. His dishes are perfectly balanced with flavors from morning with, not fighting one another



Wining and dining: Patrons enjoy selections from Stonehome's new menu and extensive wine list at their long, curved bar.

on the plate. When the amiable Stenebjerg is in attendance, he can offer suggestions for ideal wine partnering to any dish. If he's away for the evening, the waitstaff is knowledgeable about the extensive wine list and can offer suggestions. Six "lighter" wines (three "short pours" with a theme: vineyard, year, region etc.) are available each evening, as well as 35 wines by the glass. Meanwhile, the cellar holds 200 bottles from international vineyards.

The soup of the evening, a Vermont cheddar and potato bisque with the luxurious texture of heavy cream, was given a sweet and smoky note by a scattering of chewy Applewood smoked bacon and vibrant pith of chive-infused oil. The rich berry flavors and slight tartness of the Canonau Rosso complemented and balanced the richness of the soup.

Later, Gibson melded pork belly—which, thanks to its unctuous, succu-

DINING

Stonehome Wine Bar (87 Lafayette Ave. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$14-\$20. Dinner is available daily. For information, call (718) 624-9443 or visit www.stonehomewinebar.com.

lent meat and crisp crust, is this year's "it" ingredient—with a soft poached egg, a crisp round of brioche and a scattering of toothsome, buttery yellow-foot chanterelle and hedgehog mushrooms. It was an inspired quartet that soared with a splash of poultry just that cut the richness of the pork and egg yolk. A soft Pinot Noir from Germany held its own with the strong flavors of the dish.

Muscadet de Seve-et-Maine served as a crisp, bright foil to two lovely seafood starters: seared Gulf shrimp in a briny shellfish "essence" over basmati rice, and cod fish cakes topped with a sprightly piquillo pepper sauce. A hint of tamarind, with its mellowed soy aroma, lent an intriguing dimension to the shrimp. Codfish is rather flat on its own, but with a brilliant, scarlet-colored piquillo pepper sauce and bits of spicy chorizo, the moist little cake brightened considerably.

The only negative comment I can make about the "spaghetti" (that's Gibson's spelling, not mine) is the presentation. Such a generous serving of the pasta, heavy with chewy black trumpet mushrooms and sweet caramelized root vegetables, needed a bigger platform than the small soup bowl that barely contained the goods. We managed though, scarfing down every bit of the entree, between sips of a well-matched, hearty Cotes Du Rhone.

Some palates may find the beef brisket a touch sweet, but I loved the delicate fruit and sour notes. The beef, long simmered in red wine, was tender without falling into strings, and sat atop a pool of smooth, tangy-sweet parsnip puree. To cut the denseness of the meat, Gibson topped it with lemon zest, herbs and freshly grated horseradish that added heat, freshness and the clean bite of citrus. Stenebjerg's pairing of Guebeuno EVO, with its berry, peppery flavors and slight bitterness, was an inspired choice.

Only three desserts are offered each evening. While the crème brûlée, lightly flavored with maple, is a fine example of the finale, and a moist carrot cake topped with scoop of mascarpone isn't bad, both seem a bit pedestrian after such carefully conceived starters. You'd be better off capping the evening by sharing a plate of artisanal cheeses (a nutty, olivey Roncal, a sheep's milk cheese from Spain, was the evening's special selection) and a glass of tawny port.

Stonehome Wine Bar delivers a great dining experience with plenty of wine to match. Literally. What better way to start the year?

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Take a hike

Experimental music fans travel far and wide to find noise of choice

By Chiara V. Cowan
for The Brooklyn Paper

Look, if you want to get out there — I mean really, really out there — you're going to have to walk.

Fans of experimental music — "noise rock," as it's sometimes called — know this all too well.

"It's like a journey," said promoter Carlos Giffoni. "If you really want to see the show, you'll get there."

Venues for noise rock are constantly changing and expanding throughout Brooklyn, but one of the drawbacks is that getting to some of these spacious locales requires a lot of effort.

"They're aesthetically pleasing, but off the beaten path," said Brad Truax, who plays in two local bands, Home and Soldier of Fortune.

When Giffoni throws his "No Fun Fest," a four-day festival where musicians come together at the Hook to mesh sound and instruments, he typically has to hire a shuttle to run back and forth between the Red Hook club and the nearest subway stop a mile away.

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The event, "Brooklyn Music Now," was moderated by musician and author Alan Licht and featured Giffoni and Truax, as well.

"The beauty of experimental music is that it's freely improvised," said Licht. "The audience is hearing it for the first time as we are."

The popularity of the genre has grown steadily over the past years.

"It's a continuation of the same canon [of talent] that brought people here in the first place," said Patrick.

"Over the past few years, the level of interest in this has risen in Brooklyn and throughout the whole city."

The unique methods of experimental musicians give them and their fans a chance

EARTH AWAKENED...

Continued from page 9

wonders). The clusters of sound in the piece are repeated with minute variations — first we hear brass and percussion, followed by basses and violins — coming together to create a massive wall of sound.

Despite the instrument's long history Down Under, "neither piece was originally written with the didgeridoo in mind," Christie admits.

"But Peter, who already had an association with the [Queensland] orchestra, had talked about the original inspiration of the pieces. They didn't directly quote anything from Aboriginal music, so we asked if he'd incorporate that back into the works."

The presence of the didgeridoo, Christie believes, is essential to understanding the connection between Sculthorpe's and Stravinsky's works on this program. "Utilizing this native folk instrument sets the scene very well for playing 'The Rite of Spring,'" he says.

Igor Stravinsky's classic ballet will be danced by the Brooklyn-based company nicholasleichterdance and will feature its founder's world-premiere choreography.

Listening to "The Rite of Spring" today, it's difficult to believe that it was such a controversial work — in fact, it caused a riot upon its Paris debut in 1913 — but it's also lost none of its purely visceral power, even after it has been co-opted by so many commercial enterprises in the intervening 90-plus years, including the famous appearance in Walt Disney's 1940 film, "Fantasia."

That dramatic power will be on display on the BAM opera house stage, as Stravinsky's canonical work once again becomes a ballet, thanks to this new project for the Brooklyn Philharmonic.

"Our principal consideration is that this performance is the kick-off of a three-year project where we will do each of the major Stravinsky ballets

['The Rite of Spring,' 'Petrouchka' and 'The Firebird'], with world-premiere choreography from a different dance company," Christie explains. "We thought that we'd start off with Nicholas Leichter, since we had such a great collaboration with his ensemble doing 'Carmen Burana' last season. We feel that his style is very physical and very athletic, which makes sense for a work like 'The Rite of Spring.'"

Although he is choreographing Stravinsky's masterpiece for the first time, Leichter doesn't feel the weight of huge expectations.

"Those people who are already familiar with the dance context of this work will surely be looking for a new interpretation," he says. "Luckily, I am already quite familiar with the score, and I've already seen versions of it done, both for ballet and for modern dance. It's a very dramatic score, and I am confident that I can put my own stamp on it."



Philharmonic Music Director Michael Christie.

Let's experiment

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COMPLETE ATLANTIC YARDS COVERAGE — ONLY IN THE BROOKLYN PAPER

Ratner plans to sock it to local groups as he reels in arena cash

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

Community groups and schools will be paying a lot to rent Bruce Ratner's Nets arena — an apparent pullback from the developer's promise to make the arena available to local non-profit groups "at a reasonable rate."

"[The base rental rate for [non-sporting] events (e.g. graduations) ... appears to be high," according to an internal audit done for the state by the accounting firm KPMG and obtained by The Brooklyn Paper.

Ratner told the auditors that he'll charge more than \$100,000 to rent the designer dome \$62,000 in base rental, plus an estimated \$41,000 in "event-related expenses," according to the confidential audit.

That figure shocked the bean-counters.

KPMG, which was paid by Ratner to do the audit, warned him that his price was above the means of local groups and that it "may need to be further reduced to accommodate various civic groups."

The newly revealed figures — which come on the heels of Ratner pocketing \$400 million to name the arena The Barclays

EXCLUSIVE

Center — are certain to come as a surprise to Atlantic Yards supporters, who have been promised access to the arena as a "community space" for graduations, church events and other local activities.

Local groups that signed a "Community Benefits Agreement" with Ratner are guaranteed the right to rent the arena for 10 events a year at a "reasonable rate."

But it's unclear how Ratner will define "reasonable rate," based on the KPMG audit.

One of the developer's staunchest allies, BUILD President James Calabrese, didn't want to speculate, saying only, "I am paying attention to the jobs" that Atlantic Yards will create.

Ratner's curvy, glass-walled Nets court will cost \$617 million — making it the most expensive arena ever. But low-interest loans from the state, generous tax breaks and a \$1 lease for the publicly financed arena mean that Ratner won't have to cough up his own cash to build the Frank Gehry-designed Xanadu.

In fact, the state and city will pay the up-front costs of the arena.

Neither can the developer. Ratner estimates his Prospect Heights arena will deliver approximately \$400 million in pure profit, according to the KPMG audit.

The audit also revealed that: "Ticket prices for Nets games will range from \$10-\$950, though it did not reveal how many \$10 seats would be made available for every game."

Ratner will charge high-rollers an eye-popping \$4,500 fee for the right to buy a season ticket in the best 4,500 seats in the house. That one-time license fee would raise \$20.2 million for the developer.

"The Urban Kiosk," a glass-walled atrium adjacent to the arena that is counted as "public" space, will actually generate \$700,000 a year for Ratner.

Other naming and sponsorship deals will bring in another \$11 million a year, with companies paying big bucks to slap their name on lounges and suits throughout the basketball palace.

News CEO Brett Yornark said this week that the "actual numbers might vary." A spokesperson for Ratner would not answer repeated requests for comment.

But once any expectation of objectivity is set aside, the film delivers an engaging head-butt to developer Bruce Ratner, the Empire State Development Corporation, Mayor Bloomberg and former Gov. Pataki.

The film outlines Ratner's plans to build 16 skyscrapers and a sports arena on a supposedly high-portion of Prospect Heights, where brownstones



Howdy, partner!

Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner moves in to hug Robert Diamond, the president of the British bank and investment firm Barclays, which is paying Ratner \$400 million to attach its name to the developer's basketball arena. Mayor Bloomberg smiles on the deal (right).

VOX POP

Ratner's bank job

The question: Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner has sold the naming rights to his new arena for the Brooklyn Nets to a British bank with historic ties to slavery, the Holocaust and apartheid. How do you feel about that? — photos and reporting by Michael Giardina

"It's not righteous, if he's going to tear up a community and not put back into it. If [Barclays Bank] was involved in the slave trade, it's not right. Give it back to the community."

Gary Smith
Flatbush

"If it's coming from that type of money ... then forget it."

Fred Foster
East New York

"I don't like it. It seems like they're just stealing from the community. I don't think they should do it because, they are already taking peoples' money from taxes. The funding is not right."

Kevin Foster

"I'm for the stadium just as long as it creates jobs and they're paying the right wages. But I don't condone the idea of making a dollar off somebody's hardship. I wouldn't vote for Barclays. Why couldn't Ratner pick one of our banks? The arena is in our country."

Billy Joe Walker
Far Rockaway

Yards suit's new tack

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

Opponents to Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards have unveiled a new legal strategy that could bolster their battle against the state's use of eminent domain to make way for the mega-development, legal experts said this week.

In new court papers submitted earlier this month, attorneys Jeff Baker and Matthew Brinkerhoff argued that the Empire State Development Corporation broke its own rules when it ruled on Dec. 8 that the area around Ratner's Prospect Heights development site was "blighted" and could be condemned.

That date is more than 90 days after the state's Aug. 23 public hearing on the project — an apparent violation of the rule that a blight determination must be made "within 90 days of ... the public hearing."

"They blew it," Baker said. "The state violated the 90 days and anyone looking at a calendar can see that."

The new argument now joins Baker and Brinkerhoff's original charge, namely that ESDC improperly condemned and seized private property to pave the way for a \$4-billion project that benefits one developer: Bruce Ratner.

Baker and Brinkerhoff, who represent 12 people and one Prohibition-era bar that will be displaced if the project moves forward, were on the right track with the new argument, experts said.

"Now they are saying there is a procedural defect, in addition to the substantive ones," said Dana Berliner, a co-counsel on the Supreme Court's watershed case, *Kelo v. New London*, which upheld the right of governments to seize property for new private development as long as the project served a public purpose.

The focus on a tightly defined procedural glitch could help the complex, highly politicized case, added Michael Rikon, an attorney who specializes in eminent domain cases.

"Often, the clear-cut complaint that takes issue with [specific regulations] are the most fruitful before a judge," said Rikon.

Attorneys for Ratner and the state declined to comment on the latest charge. A judge will hear the opening arguments from both sides on Feb. 7 in Brooklyn's federal court.

An eagerly awaited documentary about the grassroots opposition to the Atlantic Yards development will make its Brooklyn debut on Wednesday at the Belarusian Church on Atlantic Avenue. To see it if it's worth our readers' time, we asked our film critic, Baker Hollingsworth, for his review:

"Brooklyn Matters" will unspool on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at the Belarusian Church (401 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street), 7 p.m. Free. Seating is limited. RSVP to suebrownstone@att.net or call (718) 858-3822 x100.

RATING: Three skyscrapers

To call Isabel Hill's "Brooklyn Matters" a documentary would be akin to calling Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" fair and balanced.

Lake Moore's film, "Brooklyn Matters" is a clever invective that will preach to the converted — the Atlantic Yards opponents who are its likely audience — a sermon they already believe: Atlantic Yards is bad.

But once any expectation of objectivity is set aside, the film delivers an engaging head-butt to developer Bruce Ratner, the Empire State Development Corporation, Mayor Bloomberg and former Gov. Pataki.

The film outlines Ratner's plans to build 16 skyscrapers and a sports arena on a supposedly high-portion of Prospect Heights, where brownstones



Freshly minted "Brooklyn Nets" uniforms awaited Mayor Bloomberg and then-Gov. Pataki when Atlantic Yards was unveiled in 2003 in this scene from "Brooklyn Matters."

routinely sell for \$1 million.

Wisely, Hill doesn't give much screen time to the city- and state-subsidized project's better-known, but over-exposed, opponents, like Development Don't Destroy spokesman Daniel Goldstein and Norman Oder of the Atlantic Yards Report blog.

Instead, wisest talking heads, like the Municipal Art Society's Kent Barwick and Pratt Institute's Ron Stiffman, do most of

the talking.

But it's Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights) who emerges as docu-drama's true heroine.

James plays the role of unfairly wronged protagonist with grace, issuing perfect soundbite after perfect soundbite, her cadence well-timed and her outrage palpable. She also gets the film's last words: "It's not a done deal. It's not over."

Needless to say, neither Rat-

ner nor any of his staff makes an appearance, though signatories to the Community Benefits Agreement, like ACORN's Berntha Lewis and BUILD's Marie Louis, do get a tiny bit of screen time. But only a tiny bit.

This is not Hill's first film. The former city planner and preservationist's 1993 movie, "Made in Brooklyn," won the Municipal Art Society's coveted Elliot Willensky Award. It later aired on public television.

Ratner foes dialing for \$

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Paper

Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn is reaching out and touching someone — someone's wallet, that is.

In a bid to pay off an ever-growing mountain of legal bills, the most-vocal opponent of the Atlantic Yards megadevelopment has begun a round of fundraising calls — even calling The Brooklyn Paper for cash (we declined, thank you very much).

"We have a good opportunity here," the earnest DDDB volunteer said last week, beginning his pitch to a potential donor, the always-objective Brooklyn Paper staffer.

The volunteer discussed the need to fight

the state's decision to seize land via eminent domain and turn it over to developer Bruce Ratner. Then, he got down to business.

"So we're building up our legal fund," he said, "and we're reaching out to friends and supporters..."

DDDB spokesman Daniel Goldstein said that the organization has relied on such telephone fund-raising campaigns quite a bit over the course of its three-year battle against the state-supported 16-tower arena, hotel, office space and residential megaproject.

"It's a direct connection with a person that is able to discuss issues," he said, "It's a two-way conversation."

A two-way conversation that opens on a

particular slant, that is. Like developer Bruce Ratner's much-criticized — and anonymous — "push poll" surveys, the DDDB phone pitch doesn't lack for spin.

But Goldstein said there's a difference: "We say who we are and why we are calling."

Goldstein added that DDDB called only people who provided contact information at meetings or public events, while Ratner's "surveys" used the phone book indiscriminately.

How indiscriminately? In one famous episode, one of Ratner's tele-surveys dialed dihard project opponent Patti Hagan — and a re-reading of the hilarious transcript reminded us how she made him regret the call.

BLOOD...

Continued from page 1

The Prospect Heights Democrat called Ratner's deal an "insult" to blacks, whom Ratner used as "tools" to gain approval for his project.

"This deal highlights yet again that the Atlantic Yards project is not about what's best for Brooklyn," said James, "but what's best for Forest City Ratner."

The company declined repeated requests for comment.

The attacks from Jeffries and Green are stunning, given the support both men have given the developer.

Green was instrumental in helping Ratner identify — and in some cases, create — community groups to sign a "Community Benefits Agreement" that guaranteed jobs, job-training, office space and grants from the developer in exchange for speaking positively about Atlantic Yards.

Green's call for reparations is a radical one. Some leaders in Brooklyn said this week that it was better to move forward than become bogged down in injustices that ended generations ago.

"Slavery is a stain on western society that we are still reeling from," said Marie Louis, chief operating officer of BUILD, which is part of Ratner's CBA. "But if we were to hold the descendants of all those who participated in contempt we would never move forward."

BUILD operates in an office owned by Ratner and has received tens of thousands of dollars in funding from the developer.

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BROOKLYN BRIEFS

Powerplay stays shut

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Park Slope's child-friendly Powerplay gym is still closed — but this time, it's through no fault of the building's owner.

Fire Department inspectors were supposed to tour the indoor gym with their Buildings Department counterparts on Wednesday to determine how to bring the property up to code, but when Buildings inspectors didn't show up on time, the FDNY hailed, according to the gym's co-owner, Fritz Jean.

"We're in a holding pattern," Jean told The Brooklyn Paper. "We are still wrapped up in bureaucratic red tape. This is really nerve-racking, and costly."

The gym — which is typically filled with dozens of screaming, playing kids — was shuttered by the FDNY on Jan. 11 after an inspection that was described as routine revealed that the building needed better fire-safety measures.

Jean is still unsure exactly what means.

"We're still trying to get clarification," he said.

He's not the only one confused.

A spokesman for the FDNY would only speak in generalities.

"They had no secondary means of egress, or they had no sprinkler system," said Jim Long, an agency spokesman. "Because of the configuration of the building, they may be required to have both."

"It's all about life and safety, believe you me," added Long.

Meanwhile, the Buildings Department says it doesn't have a certificate of occupancy for the building, which would mean that the gym had been operating under the radar all along.

Jean denied it. "We do have a certificate of occupancy. The [city's] right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing."

Jean said he should know by the middle of next week exactly when Park Slope's kids will be able to get back to tumbling — and their moms and dads can stop worrying about the fire exits.



Artist Nicholas Kalas (left) with the subject of one of his controversial artworks that once hung at the Fillmore Real Estate office on Atlantic Avenue.

Realtor censors art show

The Brooklyn Paper

A Brooklyn artist whose work is most typically displayed in real-estate offices is fighting back after one firm told him to remove four paintings because they were too controversial.

Camille Logan, who co-manages a Fillmore real-estate office on Atlantic Avenue at Hoyt Street in Boerum Hill, ordered artist Leon Kalas to take down one-third of his 12-painting show, "Social Justice in America," because she feared the "edgy" images would offend would-be clients.

Kalas has since retaliated, proclaiming, "I'm not going to show there anymore. They're censoring our art. There's nothing offensive here."

After the opening night party earlier this month, Kalas made good on his promise, removing all 12 paintings from Logan's office.

The quartet of pieces included "Slaves in America," featuring a black man torn in three, his severed body juxtaposed on an American flag. "Witness," which depicts a black man in toga and laurel standing in front of an American flag. "America, Land of the Free," which shows an advertisement for a slave auction atop an American flag; and "Justice Crucified," featuring a black man on a cross, an American flag tied around his waist.

The show went on display Jan. 12 at the real-estate office, where Kalas's friends and art lovers mingled and traded art-world bon-mots.

Logan had recruited Kalas in April to curate shows of local artists at her office, after she discovered that Kalas had been doing the same at another Fillmore office in Fort Greene.

The arrangement worked swimmingly for a while, but when Leon told me about this one, I told him, 'We have to be careful,'" said Logan.

"We don't want to lose sight that we are a place of business."

"One of the paintings says, 'Negros to be sold,'" added Logan. "It's kind of weird to be seeing that in a real-estate office. We sell houses, not people."

Kalas's artist pals said they could see both sides of the controversy (well, they are artists, after all).

"I think Fillmore's being ridiculous," said artist Jim Porter. But then added, "Well, it's their place."

For his part, Kalas is not backing down.

"Art is not geriatrics and penicillin," scoffed Kalas. "Art can be ugly."

—Rubinstein

Li'l Dutch boy needs help

The Brooklyn Paper

A Dutch teenager wants your help in finding the family of a fallen Brooklyn soldier from World War II.

We don't get many emails from Holland — except for the usual Euro-lotto scams and come-ons for cheap prescription drugs — so when The Paper received a note from 14-year-old Sebastian Vonk, we read it closely.

Apparently, Vonk has taken it upon himself to place flowers at the grave of WW II hero Lawrence F. Shea, who is buried in the American War Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands.

Now Vonk, who originally became interested in Shea thanks to a school project, wants to contact Shea's family. Unfortunately, all he knows is that the Air Force corporal was born on Sept. 23, 1923, but he was from Brooklyn, and that he died on April 2, 1945 in Kassel, Germany.

Vonk has even created a Web site to facilitate his search, at sebas.markoz.org/lawrencefbseas.html.

"It is very hard to find information about Lawrence," Vonk emailed. "His [Air Force] records were burned in a fire in 1973."

Indeed, Shea's family is really Vonk's only hope.

"The family could me tell very much about him," wrote Vonk. "And I don't have a picture of him, too. I hope that his family has one for me."

Any leads? Email the little Dutch boy at sebastian.vonk.8989@hotmail.com. And, please, no Viagra sales pitches; the kid is serious.

—Rubinstein

Clones' schedule has something for all

The Brooklyn Paper

Every night will be special at Keyspan Park this summer, as the just-released Brooklyn Cyclones' schedule features a give-away item, a fireworks show, or a special appearance at all 38 home games.

The home opener is June 19 against the reigning champions, the Staten Island Yankees, the first of seven home games against the cross-harbor rival.

Beyond the opening night festivities, there will be six Friday night home games featuring post-game fireworks, a piggy bank

giveaway (date to be determined), an appearance by the ever-popular Zooperstars (on July 17) and plenty of drop-bys by Met legends.

The schedule unveiling comes on the heels of news earlier this month that former Cyclones manager Edgar Alfonzo — the only skipper to lead the team to a championship — will return to the helm this season.

—Moses Jefferson
Tickets can be ordered by calling (718) 449-5497, or visiting www.brooklyncyclones.com.

Norman on trial again

The Brooklyn Paper

Disgraced former Brooklyn Democratic Party boss Clarence Norman — who is out of jail pending an appeal of an earlier corruption conviction — was back in court this week facing his fourth trial in less than two years, this one for allegedly intimidating two Civil Court candidates into paying up to \$100,000 for campaign services.

Both sides settled in for what is expected to be the climactic battle between District Attorney Charles Hynes and Norman, who is accused of overseeing a "pay-to-play" judicial system.

Norman's lawyer, Edward Wilford, says his client will be exonerated.

The Daily News reported last week that the former wife of a now-dead judge saw her then-husband hand \$5,000 to a party official so he could get on the ballot.

The New York Times reported that a sitting judge told a grand jury that more than \$40,000 was delivered to Norman to get a slot on the state Supreme Court in 2001.

The current case involves two 2002 Civil Court candidates who say that Norman required them to hire his fundraiser and use Norman's hand-picked printer to design campaign mailings.

Jury selection is expected to continue into next week.

—Gersh Kuntzman

Mayor comes to Kings to dole out princely sums

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's cultural organizations could benefit from a flood of cash, thanks to a new pledge by Mayor Bloomberg to distribute \$30 million in arts grants based on performance, not politics.

Hizzoner came to Fort Greene on Wednesday to announce the plan, which he says will get public money to smaller arts groups in the boroughs.

"All boroughs will get treated more equally" in the competition for the city's cultural funds, Bloom-

berg said at the Alliance of Resident Theaters.

The announcement attracted City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and several of her colleagues, plus local arts advocates, to the group's second-floor performance space.

Double-parked black SUVs clogged tiny South Oxford Street outside.

"Historically, it's the big cultural institutions, that tend to be located in Manhattan, that are already on people's radar screens," the mayor said. "The small cultural organizations in this city are becoming more and more important and they always seem to slip



Mayor Bloomberg (with Speaker Chris Quinn at left) discusses arts funding at a Fort Greene theater group on Wednesday.

through the cracks."

The news was literally hailed with an "Amen" by at least one arts advocate in the crowd.

"We're not a major player," explained Laurie Cumbo, one of two full-time workers with the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts on nearby Hanson Place. "The idea of getting funding on a serious level is just a dream."

Last year, several hundred cultural agencies split \$22 million in city arts grants. Some have been on the list for decades, while others have to lobby their councilmembers every year.

Only a small sliver of the funds

— \$4 million last year — was

awarded on merit.

The mayor's plan would create a panel to examine how organizations are managed, who they are serving, and their success and distribute the funds accordingly. The process will open the competition to more than 1,000 organizations in an effort to ensure that the groups have stable funding from year to year.

Most importantly, the change could allow cultural organizations to focus on their art, rather than on the art of lobbying City Hall.

"I'm excited about no longer seeing these institutions on the steps of City Hall," Quinn said, sparking cheers.

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